



# PLANNING BATTLE COST REVEALED

Report by Sue Austin

**BOSSSES** at the British Iron-work Centre have revealed the cost to them of a controversial planning application has now reached a "six figure sum".

And they said this week they are pleased the retrospective planning application for their visitor attraction at Aston near Oswestry could be settled by the government.

The centre has applied for retrospective permission for its tourist buildings, sculpture park and warehousing on its site off the A5.

While the application has received strong support, critics have accused the firm of flouting planning rules by not applying for permission before it developed the site.

Bosses at the tourist attraction say both the financial and emotional strain of dealing with the application have been taxing.

The centre's chief executive Ben Knowles said: "We started down the route of applying for planning permission in 2015. The costs have gone up and up and have now reached a six figure sum. We are a family business that runs a free tourist attraction and that is a great deal of money."

An unknown person has called on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to call in the application. The minister has not yet made a decision on the request. The news means that even if Shropshire Council's planners wanted to grant permission it would be delayed until the Secretary of State has considered the matter.

Shropshire Council says there is no date set to hear the application. John Blakeway, on behalf of the government department, wrote to Shropshire Council and said: "The Secretary of State has received a request to call in the application. I have asked that if committee is minded to grant permission on the application you will not issue a decision to permit development until the Secretary of State has considered the case against his call in policy and issued a decision."

Mr Knowles said: "It means the future of the centre will be judged on its merits."

His father Clive Knowles, the chairman of the centre, said: "The endless delays have quite naturally led to worry about the future. The constant set-backs have caused anxiety and worry for us and for our staff. At least now we know that it will be the Secretary of State that will have the last word."

## Christmas celebrations are set to be spot on!



Spot the Dog Danny Bell, Kieran Lee-Birch and Jason Brindley from The New Saints Football Club get ready for the Christmas Parade

THOUSANDS of people are expected to pour into Oswestry as the town gets into the festive spirit with two events.

The Christmas Live late night shopping event tomorrow (Friday) will see the town centre transformed into a seasonal scene of fairground rides, street entertainers and music.

And on Saturday the annual Christmas Parade will be staged, organised by the town's

Borderland Rotary Club with support from the Oswestry and the Cambrian Rotary Clubs. Christmas Live is organised by Oswestry Town Council and starts at 6pm.

The Porthywaen Silver Band will play Christmas carols, supported by choirs and musical groups, while a music stage will showcase local talent.

There will also be a synthetic ice rink and, new for this year, reindeer.

About 30 floats are taking part in this year's Christmas Parade on Saturday with entries from businesses, charities and community groups.

The parade starts in Lower Brook Street at 11am.

Among those taking part will be members of The New Saints Football Club who will give away goodie bags to the Christmas crowds.

● Lights - See Page 13

## HEALTH

### Nursing home told to improve after poor food rating

A NURSING home has been told it must make urgent improvements after receiving a zero rating by the Food Standards Agency.

Inspectors gave Rhalt Nursing Home on Salop Road, Welshpool, the lowest rating and said that "hygienic handling of food, including preparation, cooking, re-heating, cooling and storage" required major improvement.

The cleanliness and condition of facilities of the building, including the appropriate layout, ventilation, hand washing facilities and pest control were not up to standard and required improvement.

Major improvement was also required on the management of food safety.

The inspection of the home took place on October 12.

A spokesperson for Barchester Healthcare, which runs the 82-bedroom home, said it had already taken swift action to address problems.

The spokesperson said: "We are awaiting a follow-up inspection and are fully confident that the resulting rating will be significantly improved."

"The health and wellbeing of our residents is of the utmost importance to us and our absolute focus is to continue to deliver a high quality of care."

## CHARITY

### Choir could be top of the festive charts

THE Hope House Children's Hospice choir could be at number one in the charts for Christmas.

The choir, which raises funds for the hospice at Morda near Oswestry, has joined forces with other charity choirs and Pop Idol winner Michelle McManus to release Paul McCartney's We All Stand Together.

Already the song has reached number eight in the Amazon chart with the official charts even shortlisting the song as one of the contenders for the top spot.

## INSIDE

### Awards celebrate the best of care



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# House entered and car taken with owners at home

Report by Jonny Drury

**THIEVES** entered a house while the owners were upstairs, taking a set of car keys before stealing the couple's car.

Lynda and Dave Jones were in their Oswestry home on Friday evening last week when thieves entered through the rear of the house, stole multiple sets of keys then sped off in their Audi RS.

West Mercia Police is investigating the theft, which occurred at around 9.25pm on Friday, but officers told the couple it is unlikely the grey vehicle will be recovered.

The thieves also took other sets of keys, which were later found on the driveway.

Mrs Jones admitted to be shaken by the whole incident, and upset following Friday's theft.

She said: "They had come through an unlocked garden gate and then through a door at the back.

"We were upstairs and then I just heard the distinctive sound of a car engine, and ran to the front bedroom but by that time the car had gone.

"We've been left angry and upset by it all, you don't expect someone to just walk into your house like that and take the keys."

It is unlikely the car will be returned and Mrs Jones said she did not want it back because of the way the thieves may have driven it. Police have told the couple they think the thieves were watching the car for some time before it was stolen.

Mrs Jones added: "The police think they were watching the car and the house, because of the time it was taken."

West Mercia Police is now appealing for information regarding the theft.

Meanwhile, a silver Kia Picanto car was stolen after its keys were taken in a burglary.

The raiders struck in Church Lane, St Martins on Saturday night. The car was found abandoned on Monday on the A495 and police said it was seized and was being forensically examined. Police said they had reports of several doors being tried in St Martins at the weekend.

## Police hunting men who targeted factory staff



Humberside Police released CCTV images of the men. They are believed to be the two men who targeted Lindstrand Balloons.

TWO men are wanted by police over a suspected tool sharpening fraud after they entered a factory and demanded £3,500 on the spot.

The two men, who charge for sharpening drill bits, entered the Lindstrand Balloon factory in Oswestry on Tuesday last week, before returning the next day demanding the cash.

The men obtained contact numbers for all company staff and began hounding staff members and again threatened the com-

pany to pay cash. Both are wanted by Humberside Police for similar crimes in the Hull, East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

Logistics manager Matt Whyton said: "They said they could give a good price on sharpening drill bits, so we gave them a few and they went away."

"They came back the following day, with 45 drill bits which we certainly didn't give to them, they may have been stolen from the factory, and were demanding £3,500."

"They were politely told to leave but

using a distraction technique one of them men went into the office and managed to obtain phone numbers, including mobile members for all staff members. They have been hounding and threatening staff, and were calling right up to midnight on Wednesday evening.

"Next morning we received an e-mail saying we had until noon on Saturday to pay £2,000, or the price would go back up."

The duo claimed to be from a company called 'SCS International Tools'.

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# MP rules out talk of hard border in Ireland

A HARD border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is completely impractical and will not happen, a Shropshire MP has said.

Owen Paterson, former Northern Ireland secretary, said electronic gadgets were now able to take the place of physical borders for commercial traffic. The Irish government wants Brexit talks to include a clause that there will be no change on the border and there are fears that it will veto any clauses that do otherwise. Mr Paterson said it was disappointing.

"Obviously the Irish could be very influential. Any threats to veto would be most unfortunate," he said.

"There are already borders between the two, currency VAT and corporation tax for example. I have been visiting Northern Ireland and Ireland for 10 years and have talked to the government and opposition in Dublin and to businesses on both sides of the border. No one at any stage has said to me that this should be a problem.

"There are electronic invoices being used currently that take account of differences in tax and currency and it is simple to add another line for customs."

## Organisation to host festive lunch

A NOT for profit community organisation based in Leg Street, Oswestry, is holding a Christmas lunch once again this year.

Chalk will be holding the lunches at The Centre in Oak Street.

Members of Borderland Rotary Club have helped with the festivities by giving the community organisation a donation.

The Yuletide lunches have proved popular over the last few years and bring together those who are alone or hungry.

Anyone who wishes to get involved or make a donation should go into the Chalk shop in Leg Street.

# Growth deal 'would bring huge benefits'

Report by Jonny Drury

**THE Chancellor's announcement that the UK government would be open to a new growth deal has been welcomed by senior politicians and councillors.**

Philip Hammond set out plans to build a Welsh economy fit for the future while unveiling his budget on Wednesday last week.

As part of his speech, he said he would be open to proposals for the growth deal in Mid Wales, something that Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire, Russell George, has long been pushing for.

Mr George believes the central area of Wales should benefit from a deal much like the north and south already have in place.

"I am delighted the Chancellor has made a commitment to a Mid Wales Growth Deal," he said.

"I'm hopeful the Welsh Government will follow with a commitment also in the coming weeks.

"We need both the Welsh and the UK Governments working together on this.

"This is something I have been calling for over many months and I'm pleased the issue has now been given national prominence.

"Cardiff and Swansea are set to have city deals and there are plans afoot for a similar arrangement in North Wales.

"As a result, all of these regions will see money invested in better transport links, better broadband connectivity as well as other programmes designed to boost innovation, create employment and raise living standards. Mid Wales deserves the same kind of investment."

Powys County Council leader Rosemarie Harries has also welcomed the news.

She insisted the local authority would do all it could to work with the government to ensure a growth deal was delivered.

She said: "Growth deals have the potential to reshape the economic development of a region so I welcome the Chancellor's commitment to a growth deal for Mid Wales.

"This would be of huge benefit to Powys and to Wales as a whole."

## Time for firm to expand its staff



Staff from Newgate Clocks and Watches at the 'Doing Time' event at Dana Prison, Shrewsbury

AN Oswestry company that exports across the world is looking to increase its staff by over a third.

Newgate Clocks and Watches is expanding into the lucrative watch market with its own designs. Currently employing 40 staff it is creating another 15 jobs. But the company says it is struggling to hire enough skilled people.

Jim and Chloe Read set up the company in Oswestry in the 1990s and say their priority was to run a

successful business from their home town. "We are creating 15 high quality jobs in design, 3D design, digital marketing, sales and supply chain," Mr Read said.

"We are now launching our watch brand, but are struggling to hire enough skilled people in the area. The old ways of recruiting have gone, and there just seems to be less skilled people out there looking for work." He said the current economic climate may be putting

people off advancing their careers, preferring to feel safe in their current employment. He said: "The watch market is an extremely lucrative one to break into and we are confident we can do so with our brand and our designs."

The company held a 'Doing Time' event for family, friends and the business community. It took over Dana Prison in Shrewsbury to showcase its range of watches and clocks.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ex-post office will become flats

A FORMER village post office will get a new lease of life after planners gave the go-ahead to convert the premises into flats.

Mr and Mrs Reshim Bhagria will create a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom apartment in the old post office at Whittington, near Oswestry.

Shropshire Council planning officer Janet Davies said: "On balance the proposed change of use of the shop unit to residential accommodation alongside the existing residential accommodation, and within the settlement boundary as identified within SAMDev, is deemed to be acceptable in principle."

### Carbon monoxide leak sets off alarm

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a report of a carbon monoxide leak.

Fire crews responded to the call at 6.13am on Thursday last week. The leak was discovered at a property in Brynfa Avenue, Welshpool. Firefighters made the property safe.

Meanwhile, emergency services attended a two-car crash at Erw Wen in the town on Monday afternoon.

Both drivers were taken to hospital as a precaution.

### Paddington to welcome visitors

PADDINGTON Bear is hopping on a train to visit Father Christmas in Oswestry.

The little bear will be welcoming children to Santa's grotto at the Cambrian Heritage Railway's Oswestry Station every Saturday before Christmas.

Youngsters will be able to ride the Santa Special train and visit the grotto, receiving a present from Father Christmas. Festive food and mulled wine will also be available.

Santa will also be in his ice grotto at Llyncllys Station, off the A483 at Llyncllys crossroads, on Sundays December 10 and 17. All tickets cost £8 and trains will be running from 11am until 4pm each day. Booking is advised - visit [www.cambrianrailways.com](http://www.cambrianrailways.com)

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Award - Bev Larkins

## Caring Bev is recognised for dementia work

WORK to change the culture of how people with dementia are cared for in homes has led to a national award for trainer Bev Larkins.

Bev, from Oswestry, volunteered to head up a project that has seen staff from care homes across the North Wales border undertake in-

novation training. She won silver in the Excellence in Dementia Care category at the Wales Care Awards 2017.

A trainer in the adult social care department at Wrexham Council, Bev said when a position to lead in dementia care became available she

volunteered for both professional and personal reasons, having seen a family member have to deal with dementia. She said: "I met an inspirational lady for Stirling University which runs a six-month programme to embed a new culture of working with people with dementia into care

homes and domiciliary care. It was a steep learning curve as in the past we have run one-day awareness courses.

"We now have almost 100 people who have benefitted from the six to 12 months programme and more are about to do the programme."

# Gin distillery venture set to bring new jobs boost

Report by Jonny Drury

**SHROPSHIRE'S largest gin distillery has been installed at a brewery and could create jobs for the area.**

Henstone Distillery has been set up by Chris and Alexandra Toller, and Shane and Alison Parr who run the Stonehouse Brewery in Weston, Morda, near Oswestry.

The distillery will be based at the site, and the four partners have spent the last two years planning their venture, and have received support of a grant from the RDPE growth programme.

## Long term plan set for debate

OSWESTRY 2050 group will be holding a public meeting on January 25 at 7pm.

The group is about giving Oswestry a long term plan.

It will take place at the Holy Trinity Church, and people are invited to discuss the view of the Civic Society that Oswestry and its locality should be encouraged to grow, and that this growth should take place in a planned manner.

The group said: "It is our view that this requires a longer term vision than Shropshire Council presently uses. We have invited councillors from town and local parish Councils, Shropshire Council, many local organisations, and the press.

"We do not have the power to make plans, but the public together have the power to ask their elected representatives to take a different approach."

The partners hope to have their gin ready for sale very soon and they will also start laying down their whisky into oak casks to mature.

Production of bourbon and apple brandy, from Stonehouse Brewery's own Sweeney Mountain Cider, will begin in early 2018.

Mr Toller said: "Setting up a distillery has been a long-time dream of mine.

"Our three core principles are refreshingly real, to have fun, produce quality products and to build a business we can be proud of."

With the current explosion of interest in craft spirits, the team expect the venture to create jobs as they grow, and to also attract tourists to the area. Local shops, pubs, restaurants and hotels have already expressed interest in Henstone's products, and the team are also eager to put Shropshire whisky production on the map.

## Recruitment day was success



**Orthopaedic hospital staff gave a warm welcome to their potential future colleagues**  
MORE than 20 nurses who attended a recruitment day went home with an offer of employment.

Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen held a special recruitment day, aimed at nurses and operating department practitioners looking to take the next step in their careers, with more than 30 people interviewed and a total of 21 offered jobs.

Nurses and ODPs were given an opportunity to have a chat with the teams, have a tour around the hospital, undergo assessments and be interviewed for a job.

Bev Tabernacle, director of nursing, described the recruitment day as a wonderful success.

She said: "We were absolutely blown away by the response our latest recruitment day had, with a total of 21 nurses going home with an offer of employment."

"These events not only provide us with an opportunity to showcase the brilliant work we do here but also what potential staff members can bring to RJAH."

She added: "We're now looking forward to welcoming our new starters to RJAH."

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# Fresh plea for homes plan near hillfort to be scrapped

Report by Jonny Drury

**OSWESTRY Town Council has reiterated its opposition to plans for homes near to the town's Iron Age hillfort.**

Councillors have again voiced their objections to housing plans close to Old Oswestry Hillfort as Shropshire Council reviews the county's local plan.

Shropshire Council has reported a surplus in its five-year housing land supply, sparking hopes among campaigners that plans for a housing estate near to the hillfort could be removed from the calculations.

## Man sent threatening messages

A MAN sent text messages to a woman threatening to kill her with his bare hands, a court has heard.

Daniel Whyte, of Foundry Lane, Welshpool, began communicating with his victim on September 16 when he threatened to kill her and told her he was watching her house.

He admitted to the magistrates court sending by public communication network an offensive, indecent, obscene or menacing message.

Chair of the bench at Welshpool Magistrates, Nick Powell, told Whyte, 19, that he had an unenviable track record and needed to take help offered to him from the probation service.

Prosecutor Helen Tench said Whyte first contacted the woman on social media.

Owain Jones, defending, said his client regretted his actions, and on his last appearance in court he was living in a tent, but now lives in a caravan.

He would welcome probation intervention if it was offered to him, Mr Jones told the court.

Whyte was made subject to a 12-month community order and a restraining order.

He will pay a £50 fine and £50 compensation to the victim.

The council objected to the allocation during the original SAMDev consultation, along with other local stakeholders, national heritage and environmental groups, and signatories of a petition now with 12,000 names. Town councillors on the planning committee have agreed to write to Shropshire Council to maintain their opposition and ask planners to use the current SAMDev review to remove the controversial site. Campaigners have welcomed the resolution as they continue to challenge any bid to build the homes.

The Hand Off Our Oswestry Hillfort (HOOH) campaign and Oswestry Heritage Gateway group recently gave a presentation to the council, offering an alternative view of how the landscape north of Whittington Road and around the hillfort could be used as a positive driver for developing tourism. Heritage expert, Tim Malim, outlined a vision not only to continue conservation efforts at Old Oswestry but also promote the monument as the hub of the town's historic northern landscape.

The 3,000-year-old Iron Age hillfort is Shropshire's most significant prehistoric site, with its archaeological importance compared to Stonehenge.

Councillors were told that the project would help in supporting economic regeneration from tourism and historic assets emphasised in the Oswestry Business Improvement District programme, the town's application to become a Heritage Action Zone, and Shropshire Council's economic and core strategies. Mr Malim also updated councillors on new planning issues affecting the viability of housing development in the hillfort's setting.

Mr Malim and group member Kate Clarke suggested that the hillfort and heritage gateway could be given dedicated space in the planned new tourist centre.



Plans have been put forward to build homes near Old Oswestry Hillfort

## Thefts prompt police warning

POLICE have warned drivers to ensure vehicles are secured and consider removing tools and equipment from vans.

A number of offences have been reported in the Oswestry area.

Overnight on November 15 to November 16, a Makita 'breaker' was stolen from a van in Roff Street, Oswestry while a van on a driveway in Tregarthen Lane, Pant, was broken into and tools taken.

A car on a driveway in Gatacre Road, Oswestry, was broken into overnight on November 16 to 17 when cash and credit cards were taken.

On November 19, the theft of a tool box and Makita combi drill from a vehicle in Llwyn Road, Oswestry, was reported.

On the afternoon of November 18 a black and grey Ghost mountain bike was taken from a recreation area off Oswald Road.

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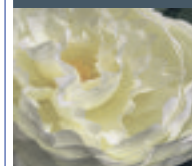
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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

In a week of news dominated by a royal marriage announcement, the budget and Robert Mugabe's final days in Zimbabwe one piece of long-awaited good news nearly slipped through the net unnoticed in Wales.

The Welsh Government took the lead and agreed to scrap burial and cremation fees for children across Wales – one of the most welcome announcements to come out of Cardiff Bay in a very long while.

I have long been concerned that grieving parents faced the added burden of financing a burial at such a highly distressing time for bereaved families and am delighted that Wales is again showing the rest of the nation the right way to do things.

There's now a welcome pot of £1.5 million available over the next two years to help local authorities fund the changes which means that in Powys the £188 cost of burying a stillborn child and £367 charge for burying a child under 12 years old will be scrapped. That's wonderful news and provides some comfort for bereaved families.

The matter was highlighted 12 months ago when Carolyn Harris, the MP for Swansea East, stunned Parliament with a tearful explanation of how, when working as a dinner lady, she had been unable to cover the cost of her eight-year-old son's funeral after he was knocked over and killed in a road accident. Her heartfelt appeal for funding was one of the saddest and most moving scenes I have seen in the House and clearly prompted the Welsh Government to take its own action. The Labour administration gets very little praise from me but on this occasion it certainly does.

Interesting to see that Powys County Council planners have listened to the view of residents over a 36-home development planned for Four Crosses and turned down the application. It had been widely accepted that the plans would go through after being recommended for approval by the council's own officers but the planning committee listened to the views of residents and the community council. That's a refreshing change because I'm hearing growing discontent from community councils that their views are totally ignored. Surely local opinion from elected community councillors should carry more clout when planners are making decisions? Half the time those sitting on planning committees have never visited the areas being discussed and that can't be right.



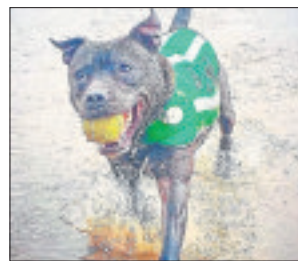
1. Samson the springer spaniel looks very thoughtful



2. Ruby Sherbet looks very happy in this sweet photo



3. Roxy the staffy proves she is picture perfect



4. Charlie plays on the beach and has fun with a ball



5. Pippa enjoys getting her feet up and watching a bit of telly with a pal



6. Charlie jumps for joy as he is taken on a day out to the beach



7. Carla the long haired German shepherd takes it easy for a moment



8. This playful bunch of beagle puppies eagerly await their dinner



9. Toffee the cat seems to think this is all a bit of a yawn



10. Maude and Mack cosy up together for this lovely photo

# IT'S YOUR TIME TO VOTE

## WELL the time has come for you readers to have your say.

For weeks we have been bombarded by lovely pictures of your treasured pets in our Animal Crackers competition.

We thank everyone for taking the time to send in all the wonderful entries – and sorry if your favourite photo didn't make it to print.

There was so much choice it was difficult for us to pick out the final 10 for the shortlist.

### Loved

All of them were so cute and obviously so loved. The pride shone through in the emails we received – some sending in more than one picture of their special pet.

The variety of pets has been huge – Noah could have filled his ark several times over!

But now it is decision time.

On the right is the voting form with all the details our readers need to let us know which is their favourite.

We will carry the pictures again next week and the winner will be announced soon after with the best-

ANIMAL CRACKERS											
<p>To vote for your favourite photograph either email the picture number to <a href="mailto:lain.stjohn@shropshirestar.co.uk">lain.stjohn@shropshirestar.co.uk</a> or tick one box on this form and send it to <a href="mailto:lain.stjohn@shropshirestar.co.uk">lain.stjohn@shropshirestar.co.uk</a>, Weekly Series, Shropshire Star, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 1NU.</p>	<table> <tr> <td>PICTURE 1 <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>PICTURE 6 <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PICTURE 2 <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>PICTURE 7 <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PICTURE 3 <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>PICTURE 8 <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PICTURE 4 <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>PICTURE 9 <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>PICTURE 5 <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>PICTURE 10 <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	PICTURE 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 6 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 7 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 8 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 4 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 9 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 5 <input type="checkbox"/>	PICTURE 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
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loved picture carried on the front of our Christmas edition. And the winner will also receive a £100 cash prize.

We are not just looking for the cutest pet – although some are very difficult to resist – but the best picture

itself, one that you would pick out if you saw it in the paper. So look closely at the 10 shortlisted pictures and choose the one you think deserves the prize.

Entries must be in by Friday, December 15. This is your chance to have your say!

## WORKING FOR YOU



The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his Autumn Budget to Parliament on November 22. He began his speech by highlighting that the UK economy is forming a new relationship with our European neighbours and we are on a path to a new future outside the European Union.

I welcomed that the Chancellor recognises the opportunities for the post-Brexit economy.

The UK currently hands over customs duties, collected on goods coming into the UK from non-EU states, to the European Union. This year, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) details that the UK handed over £3.3 billion. After the UK leaves the EU and leaves the Customs Union, this will no longer have to be paid. HM Treasury are prudently setting aside £3 billion in Brexit preparations, on top of the £700 million that has already been invested. Our businesses must remain robust and competitive, which is why I am glad that the Chancellor is maintaining the UK's rate of Corporation Tax at 19 per cent. In 2010/11 under a main rate of 28 per cent, set by the Labour government, total receipts from Corporation Tax were £43.8 billion. In 2016/17 under a single standard rate of 20 per cent, total Corporation Tax raised was £55.9 billion.

The long-term phased reduction in Corporation Tax has generated investment and jobs.

I recently received letters from business-owning constituents who were concerned about the lowering of the VAT Threshold. At £85,000, ours is by far the highest in the OECD. This threshold will not be reduced. It was also announced last week that RAF Shawbury will receive two grants from the Treasury, with money raised from Libor fines. Two grants, worth a total of £76,598, will provide a recreational area for service families and will be used to modernise welfare facilities for junior ranks. This is great news for the airfield base, which was recently awarded the rotary wing £1.1 billion contract until 2033.

In the final year of the last Labour government, we inherited the biggest deficit in our history and we were borrowing £300,000 a minute. Now, after many difficult choices the OBR estimates that we are currently borrowing £95,000 a minute and next year it is projected to still be as much as £75,000 per minute; savings must still be made. Today, there are a record 32.06 million people in work; Project Fear has been proven wrong again.

Owen Paterson  
North Shropshire MP

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# Questions about latest health move

I READ in the Shropshire Star that NHS England and the Health Secretary have plans to pilot a scheme whereby patients will be banned from attending A&E departments unless they have been referred by a GP or 111.

I have many questions about the plan and I have put a few of them as follows:

1. If I have an accident before 9am or after 5pm I will not be able to get hold of my GP.

2. GPs made a killing financially by being paid to sub-contract their out of hours service to NHS Direct and 111.

3. The 111 service is staffed mainly by unqualified staff who follow a computer programme which has been shown to make spectacular mistakes.

4. At night the 111 service is seriously understaffed and it may be some hours before they get back to you.

5. If I have a car accident and I am injured will the ambulance have to contact my GP or 111 before they can take me to A&E?

6. This policy will put frontline staff in great difficulty because if somebody turns up at the door of A&E they are duty bound by their professional guidelines to examine them. Do they break the law and treat a casualty or do they refuse treatment?

**DAVE ADAMS**  
Oswestry

## Husband Ted in photo alongside town firm bus



Thank you to 92-year-old Mrs Barbara Jones, nee Price, who grew up in the Queens Head and West Felton area, for the loan of this photo. She knows virtually nothing about it, other than her husband Ted Jones is on the left. The coach is obviously however from the Jones coach firm in Oswestry, given the wording on the back. The others are not identified, nor is the location. So if you recognise them, feel free to drop us a line.

## Time for a ban on these terrible and cruel snares

SNARES are thin wire nooses set to trap animals seen as pests or a threat, usually foxes and rabbits.

They are intended to catch animals around the neck like a lasso, but the primitive design of a snare means that it chokes its victims, often leading to a painful and lingering death.

Even if the snare doesn't kill the animal, they may still die at the hands of a predator, due to dehydration or exposure to the elements.

It is still legal to use free-running snares in all of the UK - we are only one of five European countries where this is still allowed. Most are used on shooting estates to kill foxes, so that the foxes don't kill the game birds that will then be shot by paying customers.

It is now time for a complete ban on the manufacture, import, sale and use of snares, to end the suffering of the huge number of animals caught in them every year.

**HEATHER GRUAR**  
Llanymynech

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Readers' Letters,  
The Chronicle,  
14 Salop Road,  
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

### EMAIL

iajn.stjohn@  
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Unable to trust in any politicians

I DO NOT trust politicians in general, British or European.

I believe the priority of the majority is 'self' rather than the electorate.

I did actually forecast that the EU vote would be rigged to stay so you can imagine how amazed and pleased I was with the result.

I have accepted every result, even though I thought the 'stay' result of Harold Wilson's referendum around 1975 was a bit 'iffy'!

**BOB WYDELL**  
Oswestry

## Constitutions are not always the right way forward

THE United Kingdom has no written constitution, but we have survived so far.

The USA and Spain have, but have problems which do not seem to have been allowed for within their written constitutions.

The UK managed to hold a Scottish independence referendum without pulling the country too far apart, but leaving some friction between different sides of the argument.

More so with the EU referendum. The terrible shooting tragedies in Hungerford in 1987 with 16 murders and Dunblane in 1996 with 17 forced a change in gun law. Common sense was all that was needed.

If the UK was to embark on producing a written constitution it would certainly be a mammoth task, with the risk that it would need constant updating to stop something like the USA's Second Amendment; the right to bear arms, written in the 18th century and still current in the 21st.

**PETER STEGGLES**  
Longnor

## Better lights by riverside might help avoid tragedy

I SEE there is more fencing going up on the River Seven in Shrewsbury from the railway bridge to the footbridge that leads to Underdale Road.

This will change the environment of the river forever. We must ask ourselves the question 'will it make the river path any safer'? I do understand that it is to try and stop people falling into the river late at night. It must be terrible to lose a loved one in this way and the pain for family and friends can never go away.

I am not sure that a fence on just a small section of the river will stop this happening again.

Since I moved here just over two half years go I have really enjoyed walking and cycling along the main section of the River Severn specially with it being so open. I lived in London for 46 years and in the 1980s I set up a city farm (30 acres) in East London Isle of Dogs, the River Thames being on three sides of the park and farm. The question that arose then was should the Port of London with the help of the GLC fence in the River Thames in case children and adults fell in? After much discussions it was decided to only put fences up in a few key areas, and leave the rest open.

The local authority for a number years provided free swimming lessons for both adults and children, with in the local area. The local pubs at the weekends provided at least one person to keep an eye on people leaving the pub at closing times. There were then groups like the Shrewsbury Street Pastors who were on duty late at night into the early hours at the weekend around the river. I am of the opinion that the best way/solution is to make sure there is a good lighting system along the walkway by the river.

**JOHN GOODWIN**  
Shrewsbury

## Stop overuse of term 'hero'

THERE seems to be a continual misuse of the word "hero" when defining acts of normal life.

There has recently been an award of the George Cross to a soldier hailing from this area who has successfully defused 120 IEDs: that is bravery and heroic in its extremity. Unfortunately, there are so many other brave service personnel plus civilians such as police, firefighters, mountain rescue, RNLI etc, who put themselves in danger who do not receive awards whilst kicking a football, running 200m, riding a horse or bike, can warrant an MBE, an OBE, a knighthood/damehood or even a seat in the Lords.

**MARTIN REID**  
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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Santa's sleigh will be in town

OSWESTRY Cambrian Rotary Club says it is pleased to be taking part in the town's Christmas parade.

The parade takes place on Saturday and is organised by Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club. The Cambrian club is entering its newly built sleigh and Father Christmas to be the final float in the parade. For many of the nights in December Santa will be going around the town's streets collecting for local organisations and other rotary supported charities. A spokesman said: "Please come out and see Santa when you hear the music or see our very well illuminated Santa Sleigh approaching and give generously so we can help support our local community."

## Free car parking deal is agreed

FREE parking is being introduced to encourage more people to visit Oswestry for their Christmas shopping.

Shoppers will be able to park for free in Oswestry's main town centre car parks run by the town council from 2pm every afternoon from December 11 to 23. The town council, which runs Central Car Park, and those on Smithfield Street and the Horsemarket, made the decision after a request from bosses at the town's chamber of commerce.

Councillors heard that similar free parking in recent years had helped trade.

In a letter to the markets and car parks committee on Wednesday last week, chamber chairman, Mark Derham, wrote: "The previous seasonal generosity of the town council has been warmly received by the town centre traders."

"It certainly helps to encourage increased footfall within the town over this crucial trading period."

# Awards presented to orthopaedic hospital staff



Oswald Ward, the winners of the STAR Award, with director of nursing Bev Tabernacle



The Orthotics team members with Laura Peill, associate director of performance

# Top care celebrated

**THE commitment and hard work of staff working at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital was recognised at its annual Celebration of Achievement Awards.**

A total of 17 awards were presented during the ceremony at the Lion Quays Hotel.

Winners on the night included Pip Page-Davies, staff nurse on Oswald Ward, who was the recipient of the Patient Choice Award. Thirty-five patients past and present nominated members of staff from across the hospital for the award, and a record 1,300 votes were cast for the shortlist of four which also included Shashank Chitgopkar, consultant spinal surgeon;

**Report by Jonny Drury**

Gill Lawrence, extended scope practitioner and Mary Watkins, specialist psychologist rehabilitation practitioner.

Other award recipients included consultant anaesthetist Dr Rob Alcock, who was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Mary Powell Nurse of the Year Award – named in honour of a legendary former matron at the hospital – was presented to acute pain sister, Nicki Williams.

Oswald Ward won the STAR Award.

The orthotics team had wins in two categories in the Quality Improvement of the Year Award, and in the Commitment to Learning Award, which went to senior or-

thotist, Emma Bonnick. Nick Richardson, senior technician in the Sterile Services Department, won the Richard Clarke Unsung Hero Award.

Hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth said: "It was a brilliant evening and fantastic to have so many of our great members of staff come together to celebrate some of our achievements from the past year."

Frank Collins, trust chairman, said: "Congratulations to all the winners, finalists and those who were nominated for awards, and I would also like to put on the record my appreciation for staff members who were unable to attend the event because they were on shift caring for our patients. That can't go without mention."



Mark Brandreth presents Pip Page-Davies with her award

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## Residents 'ignored in reform of schools bid'

RESIDENTS of a town have been "ignored" over the future of a county's schools, it has been claimed.

People in Powys are being invited to have their say on the county council's draft policy on developing the school infrastructure "Plans for Powys Schools - Vision 2025".

A draft has been published online and the council is welcoming feedback on this strategic document.

Drop-in sessions are also being held in January for those people who don't have internet access or who have questions for the council's education officers - but none are being held in the north of the county. Councillor Graham Breeze, who represents the Llanerchydol Ward in Welshpool, has called on the local authority to increase the number of drop-in sessions planned.

"The council plans to visit Brecon, Llandrindod and Newtown but has totally ignored vast areas of the county and I have written pointing out this very unfair situation," said Mr Breeze. "As yet I have not received a response from the authority, only support from councillors in other areas that have also been totally ignored. I will be contacting Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, cabinet member with responsibility for schools to ask for changes to be made."

In an earlier statement, Councillor Alexander said: "This new policy represents a radical change in the council's approach to developing the schools' system required to meet the challenges ahead."

"We welcome your ideas in developing the ideas within this consultation document, so that we can work together to support education across our diverse communities," she added.

# Awareness day will put focus on mental health

Report by Sue Austin

**A COLLEGE lecturer is so concerned about teenage mental health that she has organised a day to help those affected and raise awareness and vital funds.**

Zoe Jones, a countryside management lecturer at North Shropshire College, said she has noticed a big increase in the number of young people who are suffering from a wide range of mental health issues.

She wants to see the problem accepted and ways of counteracting the stresses of modern day living explored.

As part of her work she is looking at launching an eco-therapy course, focussing on natural stress free environments and conservation and mindfulness based activities which have been proven to radically reduce anxiety and stress. And in her spare time she is organising a mental health awareness event, at Oswestry's Memorial Hall on Sunday.

People of all ages are invited to the event, which costs £1 to visit with free parking in the Central Car Park.

During the day, from 10am to 4.30pm, there will be a series of workshops on stress, herbal medicine, meditation for people with seasonal affective disorder, positive choices in childbirth and a didgeridoo sound healing session.

Zoe, who is also a mother, said she had become increasingly concerned about the number of young people who were struggling with their mental health. "I wanted to give people the opportunity to find natural and holistic ways of helping themselves," she said.

## Concert raises £3,000 for hospice



Enid Thomas presents the cheque to Mike Perry from the hospice

A CONCERT in Oswestry has raised more than £3,000 for the Severn Hospice.

The event, which featured the North Wales Male Choir with Glyn Owens as compere, took place at The Marches School.

More than 250 people were present for the concert.

Also taking part were well known artistes Gaenor Ellis mezzo soprano and Rhodri Jones tenor, with their accompanist Kevin Whitley.

The concert was arranged by former nurse Enid Thomas and was the latest of her charity musical evenings, which have raised nearly £46,000 since 1998.

Along with a related event at the Spring Lamb earlier in the year the concert raised £3,108.

David Ellis was the chairman and on behalf of Enid Thomas thanked everybody, particularly the Charlotte Hartley Foundation which sponsored the choir, Roger George for his help, and Mrs Thomas's friends for all their help on the evening, as well as thanking a host of others.

At the presentation of a cheque to Severn Hospice, Mike Perry of the hospice said: "We are very grateful for the money raised for Severn Hospice."

"Severn Hospice needs to raise £7 million every year."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Car park barrier is discriminatory

A HEIGHT barrier at the entrance to a town's main car park is breaking discrimination legislation.

Oswestry Town Council has agreed to increase the height of its entrance barrier at the Central Car Park to 2.6 metres after complaints from the local access group. It pointed out that the British Standard under the Equalities Act for car parks was 2.6 metres and said some of its members could not get into the car park with their adapted vehicles.

Some councillors asked the council to remove the height barrier altogether. Councillor Paul Milner, said: "We listened to the access group and the council is pleased that it is able to retain a barrier but one that is not discriminatory against people with disabilities."

### Three lawnmowers stolen from sheds

A BURGLAR targeted lawnmowers in raids on three homes within a few hundred yards of each other.

Police are appealing for help in tracking down the culprit who struck in St Martins near Oswestry.

Two of the burglaries saw Hayter petrol lawnmowers stolen when garden sheds were broken into. Properties in Overton Road and in Trevor Avenue were targeted.

In Trevor Avenue the householder heard a loud noise at 3.45am on November 19 but did not see anything suspicious at the time.

A break-in was discovered on November 13 when a lawnmower was noticed missing from a garden shed also in Overton Road. Police ask anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area or who may have been offered lawn mowers for sale to contact them on 101 on use the Crimestoppers number on 0800 555 111.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Chapel to host carol services

CEFN Chapel near Trewern, Welshpool, will be celebrating the Christmas season by having two carol services.

Children from Trewern School will be entertaining at the chapel on Monday at 1.30pm.

The public will also get chance to sing carols.

On Thursday, December 21, a carols by candlelight service will be held at 7pm.

The event is always a very popular service, organisers of the service have said.

Light refreshments will be available at the event.

### Refugee families to be re-homed

A FURTHER six refugee families will be re-homed in Powys after a report was passed by councillors.

In October 2015, Powys County Council committed to the UK Government scheme to accommodate refugees who had fled the brutal civil war in Syria.

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme was set up with funding from the Home Office, and led to a total of 12 families being re-homed in Powys. The first families arrived in Ystradgynlais in July 2016, and the first families arrived in Newtown in December 2016, with the sixth family being re-homed in April of this year.

Due to the success, county councillor and cabinet member for housing Jonathan Wilkinson has another six families are re-homed, this time in Llandrindod Wells.

# Put back consultation on health, suggests MP

Report by Sue Austin

**PUBLIC consultation on the reform of Shropshire NHS services should be rescheduled for early in the New Year, Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, has said.**

The Future Fit Programme Board, which has been set up to reform NHS care serving Shropshire and Mid Wales, is expected to announce the public consultation shortly.

Mr Davies says that the consultation should now be scheduled to begin early next year, and should be limited to the statutory required period of 12 weeks. He said: "I am hugely frustrated and disappointed that the public consultation on the reform of NHS hospitals that serve Shropshire and Mid Wales has not already begun. But it's time to face reality, and outline a clear achievable programme for public consultation on the way forward. It remains possible that public consultation could begin in December, but it would be against a background of Christmas when public attention would be on other things. It would also have to be a 14-week consultation to take Christmas into account. It would therefore be more sensible to begin public consultation in January, which would last the statutory period of 12 weeks.

"I remain confident that the public consultation will support the location of a new A&E unit at the Royal Shrewsbury, and that building work on site will begin next summer."

## Birthday wishes for Kathleen, 101



Councillor Dai Davies wishes Kathleen Somerville a very happy birthday

KATHLEEN Somerville is still fighting fit after celebrating her 101st birthday.

Kathleen, of Maes y Granllyn, Guilsfield, celebrated her milestone birthday on November 13, and was visited with a bouquet of flowers by Powys councillor Dai Davies.

Mrs Somerville still keeps busy now with trips to church services in the village.

Born in Arddleen, she has enjoyed a long career in education. She travelled all over the world with her profession.

She was a primary school teacher in Birmingham.

Mrs Somerville then arrived to work in Shrewsbury before she moved to Africa and taught in Nairobi and near Lake Victoria.

Mrs Somerville then worked in Lydbury North until she retired in 1979.

Since then she has been involved with a host of community groups after moving to Guilsfield back in 1995.

Asked what her key to being healthy is, she said: "I take each day as it comes and keep smiling."

## Companies benefit from new housing stock work

MORE than £6 million will be spent with Powys companies as part of the county council's housing stock improvement plans.

The council has invested more than £47 million since 2013 as part of its drive to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standards.

The money has been used to replace 11,000 components including kitchens, heating systems, door, windows and roof improvements in county houses.

Cabinet member for housing at Powys County Council Councillor Jonathan Wilkinson said: "The investment in the council's housing stock is not only good news for residents but plays an important role in the county's overall economy creating and maintaining jobs for local tradespeople."

"In the last four years 97 per cent of contracts were awarded to companies in Wales with 19 per cent going to Powys operations."

"The most recent tendering exercise saw 100 per cent of work going to companies in Wales and 40 per cent - worth £6.4m - to companies from Powys."

"The council had been hoping to complete the Welsh Housing Quality Standards work by March next year but these had been extended to the end of 2018 because we change the way we procure contracts. The delay is regretted particularly for those who are waiting for improvements to their properties but we anticipate the project will be completed two years ahead of Welsh Government targets."

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# Town gets ready for its lights switch-on

## Power plans to go on show



The power line will run across the North Shropshire countryside

PLANS for a 21-kilometre £18 million pylon line will go on show to the public.

SP Energy Networks, which is behind the scheme, says it wants to hear the public's views on the route of the line as it crosses the countryside from Round Wood to Wem substation.

The electrical circuit will be buried

for the 1.2 kilometres between Oswestry substation and Round Wood, a decision influenced by the existing overhead lines at Oswestry substation, as well as the A5.

Consultation meetings will be held on Tuesday at Whittington Community Centre from 4.30pm to 8pm and on December 13 at Eastern Oswestry Community Centre.

Report by Jonny Drury

**FINAL preparations are being made as a town gears up for its Christmas lights switch-on.**

Welshpool Carnival Queen Macie Lockwood will turn on the lights at 6.30pm tomorrow (Friday) at Welshpool Town Hall.

The evening will begin at 6pm, with free craft sessions in the Corn Exchange run by the Crafty Pixies Art Studio, as well as community stalls, and the Angel Voice School will perform outside the Town Hall.

At 6.15pm a procession which includes the Newtown Youth Band, reindeer and 'Santa', will leave the tourist information centre, arriving at the town hall ready for the lights to be switched on by the carnival queen at 6.30pm.

Following the light switch-on, Santa's Grotto, located in the indoor market, will open for visits to Santa free of charge.

Refreshments will be on sale in Welshpool's indoor market, with the market stalls also open throughout the evening for Christmas shoppers.

In traditional fashion, the town's winter fair will take place the following day, Saturday, from 10am to 4pm with the streets lined with craft and charity stalls. Visitors to the event can view the goods on offer at the street stalls located on Broad Street and High Street. More than 40 craft and charity stalls will be located in the town hall as well as market stalls in Welshpool's Indoor Market. The Rotary Club of Welshpool will launch the Tree of Light 2017 at 10.30am, with carols and mince pies. Puzzle Square shopping area will host a petting zoo, there will be music from the Angel Voice School and carols by the Puzzle Square Christmas tree at 3pm. Entertainment on the day includes performances from Salopian Brass and Tribe Dance Academy.

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Education 13

# Thought-provoking lecture series will challenge minds

Lecturefest is a selection of lectures by 17 university academics providing thought-provoking talks on various academic themes relating to the arts, humanities, mathematics, science & technology.

This new and exciting annual event takes place on Saturday December 9, is hosted at Shrewsbury High School and is designed to cater for the very large and unsatisfied demand for academic extension that is apparent amongst senior school children in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Staffordshire and beyond.

It is open to all pupils in Year 9 and above.

Lecturefest is the complementary event to the highly popular Shrewsbury High School Young Oxbridge Conference, which was held in the Spring of this year, and aims to provide stretch and challenge to inquisitive-minded children aged 14-18 years of age and who may be seeking the academic enrichment required for applications to the most prestigious universities in the country, and beyond.

Emily Brick who has been organising the event is thrilled with the speakers coming to the High School: "A hugely diverse range of subjects are covered at this year's event from maths, computer science, engineering and history to art, Spanish, palliative care and psychology and we are delighted to welcome many respected lecturers and academics to the inaugural



Lecturefest is designed to offer academic enrichment to students

festival". Speakers include Professor Edith Hall, Professor of Classics at King's College London who has published 25 books on the ancient world and its reception.

Professor Bob Stone from the University of Birmingham will be discussing Virtual and Augmented Reality and Dr Kate Hendry, an alumna of Shrewsbury High School

and a Chemical Oceanographer will be speaking on the Periodic Table of the Oceans. Other talks range from "O Magnum Mysterium or ... what makes Christmas Music Christmassy" to "The Shape of the Universe" and "Picasso: Guernica" To see a full list of speakers and their biographies and to register for the event, please visit [www.shrewsburyhigh.gdst.net](http://www.shrewsburyhigh.gdst.net).



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# Christmas in Shropshire



## Fun-filled month makes leisure park the place to be

A leisure business has announced plans for an action-packed series of Christmas events which it hopes will attract thousands of visitors.

Salop Leisure on the outskirts of Shrewsbury is transforming its caravan and motorhome dealership and its glamping and touring resort, Love2Stay, next door into a Christmas winter wonderland. Highlights include a 16-metre by nine metre ice rink and a Salop Santa Dash for Severn Hospice.

Santa's grotto will be open every weekend up until Christmas as well as on selected

evenings and parents will be able to bring their children to have tea with Santa on selected dates from 3pm to 6pm.

The new Salop Santa Dash, which will take place on Sunday (December 3) is designed to be a fun event for all the family and is being supported by Rybrook MINI Shrewsbury. Runners will have the option to run one or two laps of the 2.5 kilometre course around Salop Leisure and Love2Stay.

A £10 entry fee includes a Santa suit and all the money raised will be donated to Severn Hospice. Entries will be limited

to 500 and places will be on a first come basis. For details visit [www.salopsantarun.co.uk](http://www.salopsantarun.co.uk)

The new ice rink is located at Love2Stay and will be open to the public who park at Salop Leisure and are then transported on a festive land train to and from the resort.

To add to the festive experience, Love Coffee restaurant will be serving up special Christmas treats for visitors and Love Plants will have wreaths, decorations, trees and Christmas gifts on offer.

Love Fitness at Salop Leisure will also be welcoming members of the public to the

boutique fitness studio and purpose-built bootcamp training facility and assault course. They are set to throw down the gauntlet during the Santa Run to discover how many Santas they can get on the assault course. "We are determined to make Salop Leisure the place to be this Christmas," said Ed Glover, Salop Leisure's marketing manager. "We think there is a big need for these Christmas attractions in Shrewsbury which will also ensure that people visiting Love2Stay have a great festive experience."

Visit [www.salopchristmas.co.uk](http://www.salopchristmas.co.uk)



## A four-page commercial spotlight

# The Salop Christmas Adventure!

AT SALOP LEISURE, EMSTREY, SHREWSBURY FROM 20TH NOVEMBER 2017



**Outdoor Ice Skating**  
20th November - 15th January



**Santa's Grotto**  
25th November - 24th December



**Tea with Santa**  
Mondays & Tuesdays in December



**Charity Santa Run**  
Sunday 3rd December, 9am

For all event details call 01743 282400 or visit  
[www.salopchristmas.co.uk](http://www.salopchristmas.co.uk)  @SalopChristmas



Choose and buy your own real  
**Christmas Tree!**



## Christmas in Shropshire

### Enjoy a family favourite

The community of Tenbury Wells has many things to be proud of, and nothing more so at Christmas time than the popularity of its own professional pantomime.

This year's production will be of family favourite Beauty and the Beast, running at the Regal Tenbury from December 19 to 31.

The Regal produced its first pantomime, Aladdin, back in 2014, attracting 2,227 audience members. Every year since the pantomime has grown, and this year's is set to be spectacular.

Adey Ramsel, artistic director and theatre manager, said: "We may possibly be one of the smallest professional pantomimes in the country, yet because we are so well supported by the community we are able to produce a show that would not look out of place in bigger theatres."

With an experienced cast, the production is set to be a highlight of the festive season.

Mr Ramsel added: "The panto is great family entertainment – a time when all generations can come together for a few hours of fun and laughter!"

Visit [www.regaltenbury.co.uk](http://www.regaltenbury.co.uk) or phone the box office on 01584 811442.

# Lots of festive treats on offer at farm shop



Let the elves at Churncote Farm Shop make your Christmas stress free!

For Christmas they'll be looking to tempt you with a delicious spread of seasonal goodies.

They offer a full range of Christmas poultry together with quality cuts of local pork, home-produced lamb and beef.

Their dedicated butchers are available to help with any requests or advice. Christmas orders are now being taken, and can be placed right up until Wednesday, December 13.

Visitors are invited to call in and discuss

all requirements with their knowledgeable team.

Also available to pre-order are pork pies, gammon joints, venison, pate, pickles and a variety of cheeses and chutneys. Together with a selection of accompaniments made in our

Cote Kitchen cafe – including braised red cabbage, potato dauphinoise, turkey stock, gravy and a selection of mouthwatering desserts – Churncote is definitely a one stop shop for Christmas.

Churncote also creates bespoke hampers to give as gifts, and gift

vouchers – making ideal Christmas presents – are also available.

Until December 22, Cote Kitchen will be serving traditional Christmas lunches as well as their daily menu, home-baking, and a fantastic range of homemade ready meals to take away.

Christmas pre-order forms are now available to download from [www.churncote.co.uk](http://www.churncote.co.uk) or alternatively you can call 01743 850273 or visit directly at Churncote Farm Shop and Cote Kitchen, Welshpool Road, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury, SY3 5EB.



## Gifts galore as fair makes debut in town



Event co-ordinator Laura Wilde with owner Carrie Hughes

Pink Pebble Events are all set to host a brand new event on Saturday (December 2) and Sunday.

The local business will host Shropshire Festive Gift Fair at the International Centre Telford.

The gift fair will have up to 50 local traders attending, to sell and exhibit their products over the weekend.

Carrie Hughes, owner of Pink Pebble Events, says: "I've been organising successful fairs at Salop Leisure in Shrewsbury for four years and felt that a similar event could be introduced to Telford. There will also be the Christmas Market in Southwater that weekend so there is a lot going on in the area."

"My passion is to support small, independent businesses, just like my own."

Carrie added: "We will have up to 50 traders at Shropshire Festive Gift Fair which is perfect timing for purchasing Christmas presents."

The event takes place at the International Centre Telford and will be open from 10am to 5pm both days.

Admission is only £1 per adult and under 12s go free.

Visitors will also find a variety of demonstrations and workshops throughout the weekend, as well as live carol singing.

Traders will be offering unique handmade goods including childrens' clothes, textiles, cards and stationery, gifts, jewellery and much more.

For more information, Carrie can be contacted on 07801690809 or via the Shropshire Festive Gift Fair Facebook page.

### Shropshire STAR READER OFFER

## Letters from Father Christmas



**Christmas is the most magical time of year, so deliver some of that magic to someone you love this year!**

Imagine the look of delight on your little one's face when they receive their very own personalised letter from Father Christmas!

For just **£4.99** per child, they will receive a personalised letter with good behaviour certificate, a festive activity pack and an exclusive door hanger to use on Christmas Eve. The pack will be sent in a Christmas themed envelope with free postage.

### How to Order

Simply complete the form below and send it with your payment to: **Personal Christmas Letters, PO Box 153, Bourne PE10 1EE**. Remember to enclose your payment of just **£4.99** per child that you are order for. Payments can be made by cheque or postal order.

Alternatively we have more pack options to buy online at [www.personalchristmasletters.co.uk](http://www.personalchristmasletters.co.uk). Please input **SS17** in the online box "where did you hear about us".

For overseas orders please visit our website.

All orders received on or before the 26 November will be sent out on 27 November. All orders thereafter will be posted within 48 hours of receipt, until the closing date of 15 December. Designs may vary.

Closing date for orders  
15 December 2017  
All packs will be sent out from  
27 November

### Letters from Father Christmas

Please make your cheque payable to **Personal Christmas Letters** and send your order to:  
**Personal Christmas Letters, PO Box 153, Bourne PE10 1EE** (Please complete in CAPITALS)

Child's name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Sender's name: .....

Phone / Email (should we need to contact you): .....

**REF: SS17** (Please continue order on a separate sheet if required).

The publishers of this newspaper may contact you regarding relevant offers and competitions. If you do not wish to receive this information please tick. ☐

If you do not receive any further information from Personal Christmas Letters please tick. ☐

### Parish Church of St. Oswald, King & Martyr, Oswestry

*Do join us to celebrate*

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. OSWALD'S

### Sunday 3rd December

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

*Come and hear the beautiful Advent carols sung in candlelit procession*

### First Sunday of Advent

### 10th December

5.00pm. Christingle

Traditional Christingle Service for all the family.

### Second Sunday of Advent

### Sunday 17th December

6.30pm. Traditional Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

*All your favourite carols sung by our fine cathedral quality choir.*

### Third Sunday of Advent

### Sunday 24th December

4.00pm. Crib Service

*A Christmas service specially designed for children*

11.30pm. Midnight Mass.

### Christmas Eve

### Monday 25th December

10.30am. Festival Eucharist.

### Christmas Day

..... *All welcome* .....

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# Wonderful walks for winter

One of the wonderful things about Christmas in rural England is the sense of enchantment the country landscape can give to the festive season.

There is little else that sets a Christmas mood like the beauty of a woodland frost or the sight of wildlife in the trees. In Shropshire, we are blessed with an environment that in the winter becomes a fairy tale, and a family walk through some of Shropshire's most picturesque areas can be just the thing to add that touch of magic to your Christmas this year.

For a real delight this winter, wrap up warm and take in the magical frosty landscape of Attingham Park and enjoy the wintry vistas across the Shropshire Hills.

During the Christmas period, Attingham is transformed into a winter wonderland as the frost sits across the beautiful landscape.

With walking routes from one to three miles throughout the park, you'll find somewhere new to explore every time you visit.

And if you're looking for photo opportunities, you won't be disappointed. Winter sets the scene for capturing some great scenic images at Attingham, so be sure to come equipped with your camera. Visitors to the park during the winter can also take the opportunity to get closer to its herd of fallow deer and watch them be fed by the wardens.

Attingham Park boasts around 200 deer, and during the winter they need supplement feed to keep them strong and healthy. It is a long tradition at Attingham to feed the deer; the eighth Lord Berwick loved his fallow deer herd so much he would often feed them himself.

Visitors to Attingham Park can pick up a map of walks from its visitor reception, and also download these from the website at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

Winters can be harsh on the Long Mynd, though a Christmas family walk there can still be a wonderful opportunity to see a lot of wildlife. Part of the Long Mynd, High Park is



Why not take a walk among the deer at Attingham Park in Shrewsbury this Christmas? Picture: Jamie Ricketts

better for birds in winter than any other time of year, due to the chance of seeing a large flock of Golden Plover.

The size of the flock varies from year to year, but has reached 350. The birds feed on the short wet vegetation anywhere around the area where the road up from High Park crosses onto National Trust land.

Raven and Buzzards may be seen here at this time of year as well, and whatever the time of year there is always a good chance of spotting the ponies.

If snow lies on the ground or after rain when the paths are muddy, check for footprints and other tracks and signs of mammals and birds. Lots of fun can be had working out what activity has taken place in the early hours, with foxes and badgers using many of the footpaths more than human visitors do!

During the winter the bracken on the Mynd

dies down completely, and gives the hillsides their rich golden brown colour. Bilberry loses its leaves to become green spikes. But a careful look amongst the bilberry, will reveal a remarkable assortment of pale green lichens, elaborately branched or with red tipped spikes. For any lovers of nature, a day on the Long Mynd could be the ideal family outing this Christmas.

East Shropshire offers many scenic delights that make the perfect backdrop for a winter family walk.

The Wrekin stands proud; dominating the landscape around Telford. Visitors to the Wrekin can enjoy a walk that offers a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside and the rolling hills of our county. Though be careful; some routes on the Wrekin are steep and can be challenging.

A walk along the Silkin Way can be one

of the most wonderful ways to enjoy the landscape of Shropshire and the beauty of the Ironbridge Gorge.

This lovely route will also take you past Blists Hill Victorian Town, the industrial heritage of which is wonderful to take in in the crisp winter air. And for another wonderful taste of Shropshire's wildlife this winter, a walk through Severn Valley Country Park near Alveley is a treat that should not be missed. Set in the tranquil valley of the Severn, the park comprises 126 acres of glorious country landscape. The woodlands and meadows of the park are some of the most picturesque in the county, and offer the chance to see an abundance of rare wildlife. A walk through here can be the perfect way to imbibe some of Shropshire's greatest beauty, and inspire that feeling of magic that will make Christmas extra special for the whole family.

Christmas in  
Shropshire

## Enjoy tradition this Christmas

Travel back over 100 years to experience the magic of a traditional Victorian Christmas at Blists Hill Victorian Town, near Ironbridge, over the two festive weekends of December 9 and 10 and then December 16 and 17.

Soak up the Yuletide atmosphere with seasonal entertainment and activities. Watch as the townsfolk busily make preparations for Christmas, 1800s style, listen to brass bands, tour the Town on a horse-drawn cart, meet Father Christmas and his reindeer and enjoy delicious festive food and drink.

A friendly welcome awaits as you step in from the cold and warm up by the fireside in the traditionally decorated shops and cosy cottages.

A perfect Victorian 'Christmas card scene', with a stunningly decorated Christmas tree, will be the centrepiece in the Goods Shed, where youngsters can write a letter to Father Christmas and leave a note on the Wishing Tree.

A visit is also a great excuse to call in to the shops around the Town, where you will find some unusual Christmas gifts like traditionally made cast-iron paperweights and doorstops, handmade plaster decorations, perfumed soaps, hand-printed gift wrap, traditional sweets and Victorian-style Christmas cards.

For further information, call the Ironbridge Tourist Information Centre on 01952 433 424 or visit [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)

**Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December**  
10am to 5pm on both days  
International Centre, Telford  
£1 admission, kids under 12 free.  
Up to 60 Stalls selling unique Gifts.  
**Contact**  
[info@pinkpebbleevents.co.uk](mailto:info@pinkpebbleevents.co.uk)  
07801 690809

**WESTON PARK**  
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Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd December  
Over 100 stalls selling artisan foods and unique gifts ready for Christmas  
See the House dressed for the festivities  
Enjoy Christmas Carol Singers  
Admission £1 per person  
[www.weston-park.com](http://www.weston-park.com)  
Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Nr Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8LE

**Victorian Christmas Weekends**  
9 & 10 and 16 & 17 December 10am - 4pm Tickets can be purchased in advance [IRONBRIDGE.ORG.UK](http://IRONBRIDGE.ORG.UK)  
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**New for 2017** Pre-book FESTIVE LUNCHES and BOXING DAY BRUNCH  
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**31 Days of December**





# Perfect gifts for guests big and small

Christmas shopping on the high street can be brilliant fun, but also a lot of pressure! What will the youngsters be into this year? And what do you buy for the grown-up who has everything?

Luckily, we're here to help. All the big toy retailers have released their predictions of what they think will be at the top of many a Christmas list this year, and our local town centres are full of great ideas that will put a smile on the face of the grown-ups too.

To help you start your search, we've picked out a few of the best gift ideas for both children and adults. Santa Claus is coming to town!

## 1. Gift Experience Packages, prices vary

For the person who has everything, an experience package can make a wonderful gift. Perhaps your special someone would enjoy a day at the races? Maybe an evening of stand-up comedy or a day as a racing driver? There are a wealth of packages available at many high street retailers.

## 2. Cozmo, £199.99

The price point is pretty high, but Cozmo is sure to not disappoint. This robot's personality evolves as you spend time with him. He'll nudge you to play with him, and even gets hilariously annoyed if he's been ignored for a while! This app-powered marvel has broken the mould of toy robotics and is sure to be the highlight of your Christmas purchases.

## 3. Benefit The Great BROWnanza Gift Set, £49.50

This limited edition, blockbuster eyebrow kit contains five full-size Benefit brow bestsellers and two pro tools. It contains everything you need to instantly transform skimpy brows,



patchy brows or barely-there brows into great brows. This is the fun and foolproof way to becoming your own brow expert.

## 4. BB-9E Sphero Robot, £149.99

With the release of Star Wars: The Force Awakens, the BB-8 Sphero Robot was a big hit in 2015.

With this year's release of Star Wars: The Last Jedi, we're being introduced to his evil twin! Use your smart device to control this fierce little

droid. The price is higher, but if it's within your budget, plenty of fun will ensue!

## 5. Pie Face Sky High Game, £26.99

The laugh-out-loud hit of Christmas 2015, Pie Face has made it back into the must-have list for 2017.

This time we are treated to a freestanding version where players hit a fairground-style hammer and see if they can get the pie high enough to splat their opponent.

## 6. DJI Mavic Pro Drone, from £1,099

The DJI Mavic Pro is a small yet powerful drone that turns the sky into your creative canvas, helping you make every moment an aerial moment.

Its compact size hides a high degree of complexity that makes it one of DJI's most sophisticated flying cameras ever.

## 7 Radley Farthing Downs Leather Multiway Bag, Cobalt Blue, £189.00

For a practical gift for any lady of style, this leather Farthing Downs multiway bag from Radley could be a perfect choice.

Featuring two zip tops, opening up to compartments, this simple shaped bag is designed for versatile wear with a long cross body strap as well as a grab handle.

## 8. Lego Ninjago Samurai X Cave Chaos, £99.99

A fantastic Lego set for the lads – this Ninjago set features eight mini-figures, a prison with an opening 'door' featuring laser-beams, a moving lift, a launchpad, a Samurai X bike and weapons galore.

A brilliant addition to the range of sets offered by one the world's favourite toy brands.

## 9. Hatchimals COLLEGGtibles, £2.99 for single pack, £9.99 for 4-pack

The baby brothers and sisters of the big Hatchimal that was a Christmas 'must-have' last year.

These little eggs hatch after rubbing and stroking to reveal the cute creature within. There are over 70 to collect, with the colour of the speckles on the shell being the clue as to which COLLEGGtible family your egg will hatch into.

## 10. Paco Rabanne Invictus Gift Set 50ml, £47.00

Inhale the scent of victory with Invictus by Paco Rabanne.

This sensually fresh scent sets a modern vision of masculinity. Invictus is an unexpected clash of worlds, powers, sensations, and values: a thrill of pure freshness top note facing the sensuality of a guaiac wood base note. This set contains Invictus EDT 50ml, and a Shower Gel 100ml.

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OSWESTRY

nabma



### Historic mill still retains its many endearing features

Totally flexible accommodation and hugely authentic credentials are among the endearing features of Minhafren Mill in Aberbechan.

For sale through Balfours at offers over £345,000, the property sits some seven miles from Montgomery and is within easy reach of Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Minhafren Mill comprises of a black and white timbered two-bedroomed cottage, together with an adjoining two-bedroomed barn conversion with a self-contained annexe, both containing flexible accommodation. Dating from the early 17th century, this black and white half-timbered property became a fulling mill in the 19th century, utilising the Bechan brook and adjacent canal for the manufacture and transport of goods.

Today the waterways simply add an additional layer of rural idyll and charm to the property. Balfours' agent, Duncan Scobie, said: "Minhafren Mill would suit anyone seeking either a four bedroom home or a flexible two bedroom property with a one bedroom self-contained annexe." Today the integral barn conversion, which includes a drawing room with oil-fired stove, provides a further bedroom, shower room and studio; however, this easily accessible and flexible accommodation would work as third and fourth bedrooms.

Exposed beams, a living room with Clearview log-burner and a kitchen with oil-fired Rayburn all endorse the understated charm of the Mill, highlighted by the ample supply of windows.

Outside there is a large, well-stocked and private garden surrounding the property and an integral garage with room for a workshop.

Duncan added: "Anyone who hankers after a comfortable lifestyle without compromise will be delighted with Minhafren Mill.

In more detail glazing to two aspects and a wood burner ensure light bright and warmth in the living room.

Currently a studio within the two room annexe, equals the fourth bedroom.

### KEY FEATURES

Former fulling mill  
2 bedroomed cottage  
1/2 bedroomed barn.  
Interesting history  
Black & white half timbered

ABERBECHAN

£345,000



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Balfours

TEL: 01743 353511

EMAIL: sales@balfours.co.uk



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# Converted chapel situated in quiet lane in village

LLANFECHAIN  
£125,000

Swn Yr Afon in the picturesque village of Llanfechain is on the market through Town and Country for £125,000.

There is no chain.  
This charmingly quaint two bedroom mid terrace converted chapel is situated on a quiet lane on the edge of the village.

As the name suggests "Swn Yr Afon" which is Welsh for Sound of the River, the property is located close to the river, where the flowing sounds are relaxing enough to calm you to sleep.

Accommodation at the property briefly comprises hallway, kitchen/breakfast room, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom.

There are gardens to the front and rear of the property with private parking at the rear.



The house is warmed with thermodynamic radiators.  
The village amenities include a community shop, village hall, church, primary school and a pub/restaurant.  
The market town of Welshpool and Oswestry are only a short distance away.  
The village property is an ideal first time buy or holiday let.  
Viewing is recommended to appreciate this property and its location. The vendor will offer to pay stamp duty depending on the offer and if it is to be your only residence.

For more information about the property people are asked to contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.



## Recently completed four bedroomed barn conversion offers 'wow' factor

KYNASTON  
£549,950

>>>>

Packed with the "wow factor", Treginford Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £549,950. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its' recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



## Charming home situated in desirable area on outskirts of town

OSWESTRY  
£325,000

<<<

A charming three-bedroom detached house in a desirable residential area on the outskirts of town, 32 Hampton Rise, Oswestry, is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £325,000.

The ground floor includes large spacious rooms whilst the first floor includes a large family bathroom. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, a dining room, a lounge, a kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property stands on an excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens, a driveway and double garage. Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout.

The selling agents are expecting a great deal of interest to be shown in the sale of this home.

Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 595003.







## Former pub has been upgraded to a spacious family home

MELVERLEY  
£480,000

<<<

In a pleasant location, Tontine Inn in Church Lane, Molverley, Oswestry is a former public house that has now been upgraded to become a spacious family home or run as a bed and breakfast.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £480,000.

Having oil-fired central heating and double glazing throughout, it features a large sun room, an open plan living/dining room with an impressive fireplace and seven first floor bedrooms all having en-suite bathrooms or shower facilities.

The grounds include useful detached stores/workshop or a garage. Access is readily available to the towns of Shrewsbury and Welshpool and the market town of Oswestry.

For further information contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.



## Retirement home in semi-rural location

GOBOWEN  
£104,950

A retirement bungalow situated on an attractive purpose built complex, 24 Meadowbrook Court, Twmpath Lane, Gobowen, has the benefit of a semi-rural location.

The retirement bungalow is for someone with a minimum age of 55 and is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £104,950.

Accommodation comprises an entrance hall, two bedrooms, bathroom/wet room, rear hall, cloakroom, lounge/dining area, conservatory, kitchen and integral garage. The property also has the benefit of a rear vehicle access leading to the garage.

For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



## OPEN DAY

Saturday 2nd December  
11-2pm

Oakwood Grange, Morda SY10 9NS



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Spiritual centre to meet up again

MEMBERS of Oswestry Spiritual Centre have their next meeting this evening (Thursday).

The meeting takes place from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Doors open at 7pm. The cost is £3.50.

The event takes place in the Cambrian Room in the Memorial Hall in Oswestry.

Val Laundry from the group said: "Local Shrewsbury medium Wendy Watkins will be our guest medium for our demonstration night."

"Come along and see how Wendy connects the two worlds together with messages and information from loved ones and friends to prove that life continues but only in another dimension. Free taster spiritual/reiki healing sessions are available after the demonstration, this is an amazing way to uplift your day."

### Village festival is set to carry on

A VILLAGE festival will carry on next year, despite disappointment that not more people attended this summer's celebrations.

The Weston Rhyn Festival was held in July this year.

The festival included a traditional village show competition as well as classic cars.

Organisers said that about 300 people supported the event.

But the organisers said they would like to see many more get involved in the event.

A meeting will be held at The Lodge at Weston Rhyn on Monday at 7.30pm to discuss and share ideas for the 2018 festival.

# Ambitious Shawn shares his vision for new music festival

**MOST people in their early twenties have graduated university, done some travelling and started their careers.**

One Shropshire youngster with high ambitions has done that and then some, as he embarks on hosting his own music festival at the age of 22.

Shawn Melusi launched the Field-bounce Music Festival in an ambitious move that has already seen him announce acts Scouting for Girls and Dappy.

He is in the process of announcing another eye-catching performer, and has ambitions of getting 10,000 people through the gates of Park Hall, Oswestry, in May next year.

He said: "Progress is going really well, we've only marketed things in Shropshire so far, we want a local feel to it before we go further afield."

"We are into the thousands now and have sold over 10 per cent of tickets, so we are looking to keep that going."

"In the coming weeks we will be taking it to Liverpool and Manchester and marketing things to see how it goes."

Mr Melusi is a highly ambitious man who has his goal set on retiring in eight years time at the age of 30, something most people can only dream about. However there is more to it than meets the eye with the young entrepreneur's ambitions.

The driving force behind his festival vision is charity work, something that has always been at the heart of his work. He has previously raised money for the Kenyan Schools Project and



The highly popular Scouting For Girls have been signed up as one of the headline acts at the new festival

ran three marathons in three days to raise money for muscular dystrophy.

He also founded the Melusi Foundation that raises money for homeless people.

Mr Melusi added: "By the time I am 30 I want to retire, and that sounds strange to some people but I want to be comfortable enough that I can concentrate on my charity work."

"It is something close to my heart, and I wanted to set up a centre for homeless people. Some people are homeless through drink and drugs, but I want to set up a home for people who are homeless through other circumstances. It is almost to create a legacy, to pass something on to someone else."

The start of that is the festival on

May 5, and it isn't just the top acts he is after.

Almost 100 bands and acts from around Shropshire have applied to perform, and others are expected.

He added: "Currently we have 93 people applying to perform, but for the first two hours we want to open it up to other acts, dancers and things like that to make it a big community feel."

## Members of fellowship told of Red Cross work

THE Oswestry Group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship held its November meeting at the Wynnstay Hotel, Oswestry, on November 7.

The speaker was a member of the Red Cross organisation who gave an illustrated talk on the work they do in this country and abroad, highlighting the work they do in war zones in conjunction with other organisations with similar aims.

The next meeting on Tuesday next week will be the Christmas Lunch, which will be held at the Wynnstay Hotel. As the meal will be later than the usual meeting time members are asked to come at 11.30am for a noon start.

Any members not yet booked to attend are asked to call Jan Stokes on (01691) 654380 to reserve a place.

The members were reminded that the meeting in January will be the annual general meeting, followed by a meal at the Wynnstay. Ruth Haile also reiterated that she would be standing down as chairman at that meeting and asked for anyone interested in replacing her to come forward.

The fellowship is a local group for government and other pensioners who are welcome to attend the meetings, which are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Wynnstay Hotel, Oswestry, starting at 10.30am after coffee. There is an annual subscription for those pensioners who are not members of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship which is £10.

Further details can be obtained from Ruth Haile on (01691) 650993.

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# Pair gearing up for 100km ride

Report by Jonny Drury

**TWO women are set to take on a 100km bike ride in memory of a family member who sadly lost her battle with cancer.**

Karen Pierpoint lost her battle with cancer in 2015, and in her memory sister in law Jeanette Pierpoint and fellow family member Tina Carter are taking part in London's Ride The Night, to raise money for Women V Cancer.

The event helps to raise money for the cancer charities, Breast Cancer Care, Ovarian Cancer Action and Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust.

The pair are starting training ahead of the event on May 5.

The fundraising race in London is the largest women only cycling event in the UK.

Starting from the Royal Windsor Racecourse, it follows a 100km route into London and back to the racecourse.

Last year a total of £1.2 million was raised in one night with 3,000 riders taking party.

The pair are holding an event this weekend to boost their fundraising.

They have organised a charity fair in a yurt at Brookside, Bronygarth near Oswestry on Saturday, to raise money towards the race.

They need to raise £200 each.

However they are aiming further with other events in the pipeline for the future.

Jeanette said: "We are hoping to raise money at the event, which will see various stalls on offer and live



Tina Carter and Jeanette Pierpoint are taking part in the ride

music. There will be Christmas carols, mulled wine and something for everyone, and it is £5 a ticket.

"We are doing this all in memory of Karen.

"She is an inspiration to us all.

"It is a long race so we better start doing some training ahead of the event."

Anyone who wants to have a stall at the fair should contact Jeanette on 07803 271395





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# Francis: It's not the same without Rick

**T**here's only one place to start: the death of his bandmate of 50 years, Rick Parfitt. Francis doesn't mind. He knows he's got to talk about it, that Status Quo will forever be him and Rick, that their stories and history are forever linked.

And though he's chipper about being back on the road with Quo – they play Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on Sunday – he's dutiful and respectful on the subject of his late, great bandmate.

"It's been a challenging time and it's been confusing." Rick's place has been taken by Richie Malone, the band's new touring guitarist. He's had a profound effect. Francis says: "If you'd have said to me this young fella will make a lot of difference to the way the band feels and plays, I'd have said don't talk rubbish. People said it was all over and we weren't doing any more show. But things change. I didn't expect it to happen. We're enjoying the shows immensely. We've just got back from Australia and Dubai and apart from the jet lag that's been great.

"I'm looking forward to it all. I really did not expect to be in this position or feeling this way."

He realises he'll get stick from diehard Quo fans, that they'll resent him for moving on and not forever wearing black.

"I understand if people are thinking I'm a schmuck. But I don't want to apologise about feeling good about the band. I don't know why it's so good: maybe it's because there's something to prove. It's not the same as it was with Rick, it's just different. There's a certain vibe within the band.

"Maybe we'd become complacent. Rick's health issues were going on for a few years and that made things difficult. Perhaps that happens to all older bands."

He's conscious of growing older, of entering the autumn of his career. But he's proud to be on the road at the age of 68. He's still got the moves, still got the voice and still loves playing the songs that have stood the test of time.

"It all moves on. The Stones were once the most rebellious band in the world and now they're 75. They've survived.

"I'm 68. But something else is going on. You can tell I'm chipper. My manager is in the desert somewhere. But when I speak with him I'm la la la.

"We're not sure what's next. We may do another rock album, which I said I would never do. This business is great at making you go the other way. You say you're not going to do this and that. As we get older, we're worried about dribbling, but we go back to being the young person we were. That insecure little show-off in me is trying to prove something.

"I look forward to the gigs much more. That makes me question was I not looking forward to them before. It's not the same without Rick. It can't be."

His memories of Rick's passing are vivid. "It started in Turkey. As much as he died on Christmas Eve, really, he died in front of us in Turkey. He was on the floor and the medics told me he'd gone. I uncrossed his feet, they were crossed over. I watched what those people were doing to him. Our relationship was well documented. It was frosty sometimes but generally it was quite good. The PA who was with him saved him in Turkey.

"It was really quite horrible what the

Still rocking – Francis says performing is not the same without Rick



medical profession did to bring him round. He left the room dead but by the time we were back in London, he was sitting up and having a cup of tea. But then it was clear there was something that was wrong. That was when I thought 'Oh no'. So we got the new boy in. Rick said: 'If I kick the bucket, get him in'. We laughed about it, that was the relationship we had."

The relationship between Francis and Richie took a while to develop. At first, Francis was frosty with the incoming, looking at him as though to ask what he was doing standing in his partner's place? But the ice slowly melted and the band moved on. "It happens. We die and everything carries on. I've lost two aunts and an uncle recently. As soon as I come out the funeral, I go to the studio and carry on. But the thought was difficult, carrying on. As I said, something happened. Some people think we shouldn't carry on, but we had to."

He is amused at the man that he's become. Once a hellraiser and firmly anti-establishment, these days he sports an OBE and spends time in the garden. "Getting the OBE was a huge honour. If I'm really honest, I don't feel people like us deserve it. I think the midwife in Leeds does but not us. But we maintain the profile of the honours system. No one really is going to ask the nurse or the milkman what they think –

*My best friends in showbiz are people like Roy Wood and Jeff Lynne*

they don't get the media attention. The fact that Rick and I and various others in our business get them helps to raise the profile of the honours system."

He's unsure what the future holds. There may be more records and more tours, though they may take time out in 2018 to reassess and consider where they're going. If they do tour again, the Midlands will be high on their list of places to visit.

"I've said this before but my best friends in showbusiness are people like Roy Wood, Jeff Lynne, Robert Plant and a truck driver whose name I'm not going to tell you – and they're all from your neck of the woods. Everybody I know from the area is fabulous, genuine. There's also a couple of rasta guys who do the NEC. I see them occasionally, any of those people I meet, it's like it was only yesterday that we saw each other. I might not see them for years, but I consider them friends. I feel comfortable around your lot."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see **The Ticket** in your **Shropshire Star** every Friday.



# Historical book will support hospice

A book throwing light on Oswestry's industrial past has been reprinted to support a children's hospice.

The Industries of the Morda Valley was first published 80 years ago as a series of extracts. The publication charts the history of the many fledgling industries that lined the banks of the River Morda at the start of the industrial revolution.

In 1979, Shropshire County Library issued a reprint that, despite its poor quality, quickly sold out.

But since then the book had remained out of print. The man behind the republication is Sam Evans who is a former local newspaper editor. Mr Evans is now re-typing and printing the book in

aid of Hope House Children's Hospice. The hospice is in Morda and is seen as one of the Oswestry area's most popular charities

The hospice looks after many children from the local area and also cares and offers support to their families.

Mr Evans hopes to raise £4,000 through the venture.

He said: "This hospice stands in the very area, described in the book, where children once suffered great cruelty and deprivation. Today, in a society improved out of all recognition, the hospice goes about its valuable work relieving a different kind of child suffering, so it was a happy choice as

a target for the clear profit the book will make." Oswestry Town Council's Treble Niners fundraising group, Andrew Faulks of Stan's Superstore in St Martins and Warren Howell of Pinnacle Roofing underwrote the cost of an initial print run of 800 copies, and several retail outlets have also agreed to handle the book, foregoing any profit.

This means every penny of the £5 selling price will go straight to Hope House, potentially raising £4,000 with an immediate reprint planned if the booklet sells out quickly. For details of the nearest stockist of the book call Mr Evans on 01691 654136 or email samandtibsevens@gmail.com



## Coming soon...

### Post punk band at festival

The multi-award winning Festival No 6 has announced legendary post-punk outfit 'THE THE' as the first headliners on the bill for next year's festival – the band's only confirmed UK date outside London.

Festival No 6 takes place in the picturesque Portmeirion village in north Wales, the home of the cult TV series, The Prisoner, from where it gets its name.

Matt Johnson from THE THE has fond memories of one of the most unusual music festival venues in Britain.

"I first visited beautiful Portmeirion as a child in the 1960s and have returned on holiday many times over the years," he said.

"I'm also still a huge fan of The Prisoner. In recent years I've watched with great interest how Festival No.6 has grown into the most vibrant music, arts and culture festival in the UK. We are delighted to be headlining in 2018 and look forward to contributing to a fantastic festival with lots of wonderful people in the most idyllic setting imaginable."

Festival founder Gareth Cooper said: "We are very excited to have THE THE at next year's festival. They are an act that have always been on our list and when we heard Matt had the band back together and was performing live we had to have them. It's going to be a real festival highlight next year."

Festival No.6 is an intimate banquet of music, arts and culture, taking place over the weekend of September 6-9.



# Musical tells of war sacrifices of the young

**A** FORMER Shropshire headteacher has written a new musical to help youngsters of today remember the sacrifices made by their young counterparts during the First World War.

The project, which has taken John Howard eight years to complete, was written as a contribution to the centennial commemorations of the ending of The Great War in 1918.

The show will premiere at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn Auditorium between February 1 and 3.

The show is based on the lives and loves of a group of young people living on the Home Front on the Welsh Borderlands.

It explores the stresses and hardship experienced during the six months leading up to opening salvo of the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916.

Mr Howard hopes that the musical will eventually become a supplement to the national secondary school curriculum on the First World War studies.

He said: "The story of these young people's lives presents a fast-moving, often humorous and historically accurate script, that plays on and evokes a range of emotions."

"The fortunes of the young men are played out against a backdrop of the World War, culminating in a very respectful and moving Finale of Remembrance."

Mr Howard added: "The project is firmly aimed at inspiring the youth of today to seek out the incredible stories of their forebears, played out 100 years ago."

John Howard, Paul Martin and Graham Burgess, former Oswestry Boys' High School friends, have collaborated

The musical will be performed next year



on this unique show over many years. They are supported by an experienced local cast of 45 members from all across Shropshire and led by director Rachel Downey with Carly Woodward of Oswestry taking a lead role. Tickets are available via the website at [www.theatresevern.co.uk](http://www.theatresevern.co.uk) or the Box Office on 01743 281281.

### Top poet in county date

Award-winning poet Professor Benjamin Zephaniah will return for his first tour in eight years.

His headline show at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn will coincide with the publication in May of his autobiography, The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah.

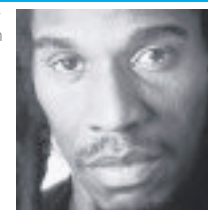
He said he was delighted to be returning to the town on June 14, having enjoyed playing the theatre on two separate occasions.

Professor Zephaniah will talk about his life – and how after hitting rock bottom by being sent to a young offenders' institute in Shropshire he dedicated his life to social justice and poetry, becoming friends with Nelson Mandela along the way.

He said: "Shrewsbury has always given me a warm welcome when I've toured in the past and I'm looking forward to seeing familiar faces when I return to Theatre Severn in spring." Professor Zephaniah is one of many highlights in the new spring programme at the theatre.

More comedy comes to the venue with the return of Count Arthur Strong. The comedy veteran will be returning this spring with his new show Alive and Unplugged, taking audiences back on a journey through his early career.

Further acts added to the line-up of new events include an audience with Paul Gambaccini, who will reveal how he started life as a boy in the Bronx and wound up "The Professor of Pop" in Great Britain.



### Supervet will be guest host

TV's Supervet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick will again be the guest host at a popular dog festival held near the Shropshire border, it has been announced.

DogFest will be at Cholmondeley Castle close to Whitchurch on June 16 and 17.

Activities during the event include flyball, agility, training and obedience sessions, and the ever-popular fun dog competitions.

Organisers say the attractions during the day will feature School 4 Dogs, Dogs with Jobs, and the ever-popular Great Dog Walk led by the professor.

Tickets will cost adults £16, children £10, OAPs £12, with family ticket £44 for two adults and two children aged under 16.

Camping pitches are also available at the castle, organisers have said.

For bookings and for further information about the event, people can visit [www.dog-fest.co.uk](http://www.dog-fest.co.uk).



## NOTICE BOARD

art critic, writer, broadcaster and artist Matthew Collings, and art critic and curator Sacha Craddock. The deadline for submissions will be 5pm on Monday, February 12, and full details and entry forms can be found at [www.orioldavies.org/en/open2018](http://www.orioldavies.org/en/open2018). For more information e-mail [open2018@orioldavies.org](mailto:open2018@orioldavies.org) or 01686 625041.

\* FINE Arts expert and television personality, Peter Ashburner, will talk about the World of Antiques at a meeting of Oswestry Borders U3A. The talk will be at Oswestry Senior Citizens Club in

Lorne Street, on Wednesday next week from 2pm to 4pm. The £1 entrance fee includes refreshments. Newcomers to Oswestry Borders U3A are welcome to attend meetings, or interest groups sessions, as guests, before making a decision to join.

\* SINGERS who have been kept busy during the run-up to Christmas have announced two further concerts before the big day. The Guilsfield Singers performed at the Llanwyddyn Folk weekend in September and sang at a supper concert in Montgomery under the auspices of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, as well as a Remembrance Day concert at St Oswald's Church, Oswestry. Two

forthcoming concerts include a concert which will mark the closing of a decade of the choir's history, as they will be the last to be conducted by outgoing musical director Gerry Howe. The first concert will be at St Tysilio and St Mary's Church, Meifod, on December 9, at 7pm. The following Thursday, December 14, the choir will sing at St Aelhaiarn's, Guilsfield, at 7pm, marking musical director Gerry Howe's final concert after 11 years. Tickets for the Guilsfield concert are £7 on and can be purchased by phone on 01938 555249 or 554047 or in person from Welshpool Jewellers. The Meifod concert tickets are £5. For tickets call 01938 500645. Tickets for both concerts will be available at the door on the night.

\* AN art gallery is calling for entries for their open exhibition. Newtown's Oriol Davies Open exhibition (ODO) has a long-standing reputation for having showcased work by some of the most exciting emerging and established artists from across the UK. The gallery is inviting professional artists and those studying art to submit entries of recent work in order to be considered for the exhibition taking place from June 23 to September 5, 2018. ODO18 has no theme or geographical restrictions, and the overall prize winner will get £1,000 and a solo show in 2019. The student prize winner will receive £500 and the people's choice prize winner will win £250. The selection panel will include



# December 2



**Michael McIntyre's Big Show**  
*8.10pm*  
The comedian's entertainment showcase continues, as he invites pop singer-songwriter Jessie J and Welsh rockers Stereophonics to join him on stage at London's Theatre Royal.

BBC1	
6.00	<b>Breakfast.</b>
10.00	<b>Saturday Kitchen Live.</b> American jazz vocalist Gregory Porter joins host Angela Hartnett in the studio kitchen, where he samples treats prepared by Tristan Welch and Ken Hom.
11.30	<b>Nigella: At My Table.</b> Nigella Lawson demonstrates recipes for a savoury take on French toast, spiced lamb kofta, rose and pepper pavlova with strawberries, egg curry, and white chocolate cheesecake. (R)
12.00	<b>Football Focus.</b> Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Arsenal v Manchester United in the Premier League, and the second round of the FA Cup.
1.00	<b>BBC News; Weather.</b>
1.15	<b>Live Snooker: UK Championship.</b> Coverage of the fourth day at the Barbican Centre in York, featuring matches in the second round of the prestigious ranking tournament.
2.00	<b>Live International Rugby Union.</b> Wales v South Africa (Kick-off 2.30pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage of the concluding autumn international of the season at the Principality Stadium.
4.30	<b>Final Score.</b> Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.
5.25	<b>Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme.</b> With panellists Oli Mabuse, Joe Swash, Heidi Range and Lionel Blair.
5.55	<b>BBC News.</b>
6.05	<b>Midlands Today; Weather.</b>
6.15	<b>Pointless Celebrities.</b> Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Brendan Cole, Chris Hollins, Russell Grant, Aliona Vilani, Jay McGuinness, Anton du Beke and Erin Boag compete in a "Strictly Come Dancing" edition of the quiz. (R)
7.05	<b>Strictly Come Dancing.</b> The six remaining couples enter "Musicals Week", in which they are challenged to successfully recreate popular song and dance routines from hit stage musicals.
8.10	<b>Michael McIntyre's Big Show.</b> Jessie J and Stereophonics perform on-stage at London's Theatre Royal, and football pundit Alan Shearer hands over his phone for Celebrity Send to All.
9.10	<b>Casualty.</b> Connie puts her health at risk by maintaining a presence on the ED, Ethan shows up late for his practical consultancy exam, and Max takes a shine to new coffee shop worker Polly.
10.00	<b>BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.</b>
10.20	<b>Match of the Day.</b> Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League matches, including Arsenal v Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium and Watford v Tottenham Hotspur at Vicarage Road.
11.50	<b>The NFL Show.</b> Mark Chapman is joined by former players Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game, plus a look at the major stories shaping the NFL world.
12.20	<b>FILM: Lay the Favorite (2012).</b> A Las Vegas cocktail waitress proves a success as a professional gambler, but arouses the jealousy of her mentor's wife. Comedy, starring Rebecca Hall and Bruce Willis.
1.50	<b>Weather for the Week Ahead.</b>
1.55	<b>BBC News.</b>



**Live Rugby League World Cup**  
*8.30am*  
Australia or Fiji v Tonga or England (Kick-off 9.00am). Mark Chapman introduces coverage of the final at Brisbane Stadium. With commentary by Dave Woods.

BBC2	
6.15	<b>Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman.</b> Presenter Chris Hollins reminisces about a 1988 holiday in Oxford. (R)
7.00	<b>Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.</b> Naomi Wilkinson meets deadly underwater creatures in the Caribbean.
7.30	<b>Deadly 60.</b> Habitats shared by humans and dangerous creatures. (R)
8.00	<b>Show Me What You're Made Of: UK.</b> Five youngsters travel to a sandwich factory in London.
8.30	<b>Live Rugby League World Cup.</b> Australia or Fiji v Tonga or England (Kick-off 9.00am).
11.30	<b>Homes Under the Hammer. (R)</b>
12.00	<b>Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well.</b> The chef gives a masterclass in grilling. (R)
12.30	<b>Operation Snow Tiger.</b> Part one of two. Scientists studying endangered Siberian tigers. (R)
1.30	<b>Mastermind.</b> Specialist subjects include the Champions League and political thriller House of Cards. (R)
2.00	<b>Live Snooker: UK Championship.</b> Continuing coverage of the fourth day at the Barbican Centre in York.
6.00	<b>Rugby League World Cup.</b> Australia or Fiji v Tonga or England. Tanya Arnold introduces highlights of the final at Brisbane Stadium, where the successors to Australia were decided after 28 matches.
7.00	<b>Front Row.</b> Brenda Emmanus and a selection of critics and artists discuss the state of contemporary art in Britain, as part of a special edition focusing on this year's Turner Prize shortlist.
7.30	<b>Galapagos – Islands of Change: Natural World.</b> David Attenborough narrates a documentary that looks at the impact increased migration and tourism has had on the Pacific archipelago's wildlife. (R)
8.30	<b>Dad's Army.</b> Captain Mainwaring lets Frazer take charge of the platoon, gambling that a taste of authority will give him a more responsible attitude. (R)
9.00	<b>Imagine – Rachel Whiteread: Ghost in the Room.</b> A profile of Rachel Whiteread, from the controversy surrounding her 1993 Turner Prize-winning piece House, to the acclaim she achieved for creating Vienna's Holocaust Memorial.
10.05	<b>QI XL.</b> Romesh Ranganathan, Matt Lucas and Liza Tarbuck join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig for an extended edition of the unconventional quiz show.
10.50	<b>Insert Name Here.</b> Hugh Dennis, Suzannah Lipscomb, Rebecca Front and Phil Wang join captains Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer questions about famous people who share a name. (R)
11.20	<b>Snooker: UK Championship.</b> The second round at the Barbican Centre in York, where the matches were played over the best of 11 frames, in the prestigious ranking tournament. Hazel Irvine presents.
12.10	<b>Snooker: UK Championship Extra.</b>
2.10	<b>FILM: Ratcatcher (1999).</b> Drama, starring William Eadie.
3.40	<b>This Is BBC2.</b>



**I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!**  
*9.10pm*  
Ant and Dec present, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle, struggling to complete the tough daily tasks.

ITV	
6.00	<b>CITV: Sooty</b> 6.10 <b>Bottom Kocker Street</b> 6.20 <b>Bottom Kocker Street</b> 6.35 <b>Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures</b> 6.45 <b>Super 4</b> 7.00 <b>Mission Employable</b> 7.05 <b>Oddbods</b> 7.10 <b>Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors</b>
7.30	<b>Scrambled!: Scrambled!</b> Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	<b>Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.</b> Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
7.50	<b>Scrambled!: Fangbone.</b> (R)
8.10	<b>Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls.</b> Feisty frolics. (R)
8.30	<b>Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go.</b> A sneaky supervisor plans to sabotage an oil rig.
9.00	<b>Scrambled!: Wishfart.</b> (R)
9.25	<b>ITV News.</b>
9.30	<b>Saturday Morning with James Martin.</b> With guests Alexander Armstrong and Nick Nairn.
11.25	<b>Gino's Italian Coastal Escape.</b> Gino D'Acampo visits the home of water buffalo mozzarella. (R)
11.55	<b>ITV News and Weather; Weather.</b>
12.00	<b>The X Factor: The Semi Finals.</b> Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary. (R)
1.30	<b>ITV Racing: Live from Newbury.</b> Coverage of the second day of the winter carnival at Newbury.
4.00	<b>Thunderbirds Are Go.</b> A sneaky supervisor plans to sabotage an oil rig. (R)
4.25	<b>The Cruise: Sailing the Mediterranean.</b> Life on board luxury cruise ship the Royal Princess. (R)
5.00	<b>Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.</b> Paul meets a bull mastiff with some very particular demands. (R)
5.25	<b>New You've Been Framed!</b> More viewer-submitted mishaps captured in video form.
5.55	<b>ITV News Central; Weather.</b>
6.00	<b>ITV News and Weather.</b>
6.10	<b>Ninja Warrior UK.</b> The semi-finals arrive, and Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara challenge the contestants who survived the heats to test their endurance on the obstacle course once again. (R)
7.05	<b>The X Factor: Live Final.</b> Dermot O'Leary presents the first of two live grand finals, as the remaining singers compete for approval again, and one act faces the prospect of bowing out in third place.
9.10	<b>I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!</b> Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle.
10.15	<b>ITV News and Weather; Weather.</b>
10.35	<b>FILM: Rambo III (1988).</b> Vietnam veteran John Rambo heads for Afghanistan on a quest to rescue his old boss Colonel Trautman from prison. Action adventure sequel, with Sylvester Stallone and Richard Crenna.
12.25	<b>Jackpot247.</b> Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	<b>The Hungry Sailors.</b> Dick and James Strawbridge visit Tresco and Bryher in the Isles of Scilly, cooking a meal in a museum dedicated to shipwrecks before battling to produce the best cricket tea. (R)
3.50	<b>ITV Nightscreen.</b>



**Grand Designs**  
*5.35pm*  
Kevin McCloud meets Chris and Kayo, who plan to build a unique, Roman-inspired home on the protected land surrounding one of Britain's most historic abbeys in Hertfordshire.

Channel 4	
6.20	<b>Adventure Racing: 4 Deserts.</b> Action from the Gobi March and the Atacama Crossing.
6.45	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Frank offers to paint Ray's house. (R)
7.10	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Ray recalls Ally's birth. (R)
7.40	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Michael embarrasses the family. (R)
8.05	<b>Frasier.</b> Roz produces Bulldog's show. (R)
8.35	<b>Frasier.</b> Martin tries to solve an old murder case. (R)
9.05	<b>The Big Bang Theory.</b> The guys' skills are tested by a flat tyre during Leonard's bachelor party weekend. (R)
9.35	<b>The Big Bang Theory.</b> Sheldon remembers back to the days before he met Leonard. (R)
10.00	<b>The Big Bang Theory.</b> (R)
10.25	<b>The Big Bang Theory.</b> Leonard and Sheldon need helium – and fast. (R)
10.55	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Homer recalls Maggie's birth. (R)
11.25	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Homer enrolls in clown college. (R)
11.55	<b>Come Dine with Me.</b> The first of week of dinner parties from Middlesbrough. (R)
12.25	<b>Come Dine with Me.</b> Middlesbrough goalkeeping coach Dan hopes to thrill guests with a 007 evening. (R)
12.55	<b>Come Dine with Me.</b> In Middlesbrough, pub landlord Gary plans a 1980s evening. (R)
1.30	<b>Come Dine with Me.</b> Vintage shop owner Jane serves up a retro menu in Middlesbrough. (R)
2.00	<b>Come Dine with Me.</b> On the last night in Middlesbrough, Julie's Indian menu gets mixed reviews. (R)
2.35	<b>A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.</b> A couple choose between the Lake District and the French Alps. (R)
3.35	<b>A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.</b> Choosing between Hertfordshire and Mallorca. (R)
4.35	<b>Best Laid Plans.</b> A renovation project transforming an old chapel into a family home.
5.35	<b>Grand Designs.</b> Building a Roman-inspired home on land surrounding a historic abbey in Hertfordshire. (R)
6.30	<b>Channel 4 News.</b>
7.00	<b>Can We Live with Robots?</b> Choreographer Akram Khan explores the impact robots and AI are having on human relationships, as he develops a new dance reflecting fears over how they will affect the future.
8.00	<b>FILM: The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011).</b> Seven English pensioners decide to make a fresh start by moving to India to live in a dilapidated hotel. Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith and Dev Patel.
10.25	<b>FILM: I, Robot (2004).</b> A detective is convinced a robot has killed its creator, even though it has been programmed never to harm humans. Sci-fi thriller, with Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan and Alan Tudyk.
12.40	<b>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.</b> (R)
1.30	<b>The Last Leg.</b> (R)
2.25	<b>Hollyoaks.</b>
4.30	<b>Location, Location, Location.</b> (R)
5.25	<b>Draw It!</b> (R)
5.55	<b>Kevin Can Wait.</b>



**NCIS: New Orleans**  
*8.05pm*  
A race-car driving US Marine corporal is killed in a crash on the track, and the agents uncover evidence that suggests the collision might not have been an accident. Scott Bakula stars.

Channel 5	
6.00	<b>Milkshake!:</b> Little Princess 6.10 Wanda and the Alien 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.35 Wissper 6.40 Milkshake! Monkey 6.45 Milkshake! Bopping about 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.15 Poppy Cat 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.45 Olly the Little White Van 7.55 Paw Patrol 8.10 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.25 Shimmer and Shine 8.40 Peppa Pig 8.50 Peppa Pig
9.00	<b>FIA Formula E.</b> Action from the first race of the Hong Kong ePrix.
10.45	<b>The Gadget Show.</b> Jon Bentley tests some navigation apps. (R)
11.45	<b>Cruising With Jane McDonald.</b> The presenter enjoys a series of ocean odysseys.
12.10	<b>FILM: A Christmas to Remember (2016).</b> Festive romance, starring Mira Sorvino and Cameron Mathison.
1.50	<b>FILM: Merry Kissmas! (2015).</b> Romance, starring Karissa Staples and Brant Daugherty.
3.35	<b>FILM: Annie Claus Is Coming to Town (2011).</b> Christmas fantasy, starring Maria Thayer.
4.35	<b>5 News Update.</b>
4.45	<b>FILM: Annie Claus Is Coming to Town (2011).</b> Concluded.
5.25	<b>FILM: A Dream of Christmas (2016).</b> Premiere. Festive romance, starring Nikki DeLoach.
6.25	<b>5 News Update.</b>
6.30	<b>FILM: A Dream of Christmas (2016).</b> Concluded.
7.10	<b>Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.</b> Agents in central London try to recover almost £1,900 owed in parking fines, while officers Stewart and Vic chase over £2,200 owed by a scrap yard owner. (R)
8.05	<b>NCIS: New Orleans.</b> A race-car driving US Marine corporal is killed in a crash on the track, and the agents uncover evidence that suggests the collision might not have been an accident.
8.55	<b>5 News Weekend.</b>
9.00	<b>Football on 5: The Championship.</b> Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Derby County v Burton Albion, Sunderland v Reading, and Bristol City v Middlesbrough.
10.00	<b>Live Boxing.</b> Anthony Yigit v Joe Hughes. Coverage of the bout for the European Super-Lightweight title, which takes place at Leicester Arena.
12.00	<b>SuperCasino.</b> Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10	<b>When Calls the Heart.</b> Jack finally asks Elizabeth out, only to learn he has been reassigned. Abigail uncovers the truth about what caused the pit disaster. (R)
4.40	<b>Access.</b> Showbiz news and gossip. (R)
4.55	<b>House Doctor.</b> Ann Maurice transforms the Cheltenham house of a 29-year-old IT consultant, doing away with the garish colour scheme and replacing the dingy clutter with attractive accessories. (R)
5.20	<b>Wildlife SOS.</b> The work of volunteers at an animal sanctuary. (R)
5.45	<b>Chinese Food in Minutes.</b> Ching-He Huang teaches two nurses to prepare a Taiwanese chicken and rice dish, alongside ginger, chilli and soy-steamed cod with special egg-fried rice. (R)



# December 3



**Match of the Day 2**  
10.30pm  
Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium and Bournemouth v Southampton at the Vitality Stadium.



**Snowfall**  
10pm  
Franklin discovers that it was Lenny who came after him, and is forced to fight back or lose everything. Lucia is powerless to stop Ramiro taking over everything she and Oso have created.



**The Chase Celebrity Special**  
6.25pm  
Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Gregg Wallace, Denise Lewis, Mark Pougatch and Gina Yashere pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser.



**Shrek**  
5.50pm  
A grumpy ogre is forced to rescue a princess from a dragon, aided only by a wisecracking donkey. Animated comedy, with the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz and Eddie Murphy.



**Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights**  
8.15pm  
Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 10th round of matches, including Northampton Saints v Newcastle Falcons.

BBC1	
6.00	<b>Breakfast.</b>
7.25	<b>Match of the Day.</b> Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League matches, including Arsenal v Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium and Watford v Tottenham Hotspur at Vicarage Road. (R)
9.00	<b>The Andrew Marr Show.</b>
10.00	<b>Fern Britton Meets Stefanie Reid.</b> The paralympic athlete discusses how she became a Christian following a boating accident as a teenager that led to the lower half of one leg being amputated.
11.00	<b>Sunday Politics West Midlands.</b> The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
12.15	<b>BBC News;</b> Weather.
12.30	<b>Flag It!</b> From Barnard Castle in Co Durham. (R)
12.50	<b>Mary Berry's Country House Secrets.</b> Mary visits Scone Palace near Perth in Scotland, where she is invited to help Lady Mansfield prepare for a special dinner with traditional Scottish reeling. (R)
1.50	<b>FA Cup Final Score.</b> Jason Mohammad presents updates, scores, news and goals from today's FA Cup second-round matches, as well as reaction to today's Premier League fixtures.
4.15	<b>Songs of Praise.</b> David Grant presents the final of Gospel Choir of the Year from Central Hall in Westminster, with five amateur groups performing for judges Seal, Muiyia Olarewaju and Karen Gibson.
4.55	<b>Blue Planet II.</b> Footage of wildlife inhabiting underwater kelp forests, including thousands of giant cuttlefish spawning in a rocky reef and tiger sharks hunting for green turtles in seagrass. (R)
5.55	<b>BBC News.</b>
6.10	<b>Midlands Today;</b> Weather.
6.20	<b>Countryfile.</b> Helen Skelton and Sean Fletcher explore the Cleveland Way, meeting scouts, marathon runners, and wildlife photographers and discovering a local oral history project.
7.20	<b>Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.</b> Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal the results of the Musicals Week viewers' vote. Featuring music from Beverley Knight, Amber Riley and Cassidy Janson.
8.00	<b>Blue Planet II.</b> Footage of animals that live on the coast, including sea lions hunting for tuna, puffins bringing food back to their young, and a strange species of fish that hates water.
9.00	<b>Howards End.</b> Margaret resolves to uphold her engagement, while Helen leaves for Europe with no explanation. Henry proposes a plan to resolve the issues at Howards End. Last in the series.
10.00	<b>BBC News.</b>
10.20	<b>Midlands Today;</b> Weather.
10.30	<b>Match of the Day 2.</b> Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium and Bournemouth v Southampton at the Vitality Stadium.
11.30	<b>Ronny Chieng: International Student.</b> Ronny tries to fix Asher's computer when he accidentally gets it infected with a virus one day before her assignment is due.
11.55	<b>Weather for the Week Ahead.</b>
12.00	<b>BBC News.</b>

BBC2	
6.05	<b>Coast.</b> Exploring stories of invasions around the British Isles. (R)
7.05	<b>Gardeners' World.</b> Monty Don breaks ground for his new pond at Longmeadow. (R)
7.35	<b>The Secret History of the British Garden.</b> Monty Don examines gardening in the 18th century. (R)
8.35	<b>Countryfile.</b> Joe Crowley visits Britain's largest nature reserve in the Cairngorms. (R)
9.30	<b>Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.</b> Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
11.00	<b>Food &amp; Drink.</b> Tom Kerridge and guest Monica Galetti discuss how to keep cooking simple. (R)
11.30	<b>My Life on a Plate.</b> Falklands War veteran Simon Weston returns to his childhood home in Caerphilly. (R)
12.15	<b>MOTD2 Extra.</b> Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
1.00	<b>Live Snooker: UK Championship.</b> Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fifth day at the Barbican Centre in York, featuring matches in the second round of the prestigious ranking tournament.
6.00	<b>MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.</b> Manish Bhasin introduces action from the second round, as the remaining 40 lower league and non-league sides looked to progress to Monday night's third-round draw.
7.00	<b>Turkey with Simon Reeve.</b> Part two of two. Simon travels along the Black Sea Coast to the capital of Ankara, and witnesses first hand the aftermath of fighting in Kurdish areas before returning to Istanbul. (R)
8.00	<b>Robot Wars.</b> The grand final features the series' biggest ever battle, with 10 robots from the series returning to fight for the last remaining place in the final round. Last in the series.
9.00	<b>Expedition Volcano.</b> Part two of two. The team takes a helicopter to the crater of an active volcano that is surrounded by forests which provide cover for a number of armed militant groups.
10.00	<b>Snowfall.</b> Franklin discovers that it was Lenny who came after him, and is forced to fight back or lose everything. Lucia is powerless to stop Ramiro taking over everything she has created.
10.45	<b>Snowfall.</b> Franklin finds success comes at a price. Teddy is forced to make an impossible choice, and Lucia struggles to hold on to everything she has worked to build. Last in the series.
11.40	<b>Snooker: UK Championship.</b> Hazel Irvine presents action from the fifth day at the Barbican Centre in York, featuring matches in the second round of the prestigious ranking tournament.
12.30	<b>Snooker: UK Championship Extra.</b> Hazel Irvine presents extended highlights from one of today's matches at the Barbican Centre in York, where the second round came to a conclusion.
2.30	<b>Sign Zone: Question Time.</b> Topical debate from Scarborough, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
3.30	<b>Sign Zone: Holby City.</b> In light of Nina's news, Matteo can no longer run from their past, and Jac faces mounting pressures, both personal and professional. (R)
4.30	<b>This Is BBC2.</b>

ITV	
6.00	<b>CITV: Sooty</b> 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Super 4 7.00 Mission Employable 7.05 Oddbods 7.10 Thunderbirds Are Go
7.30	<b>Scrambled!: Scrambled!</b>
7.35	<b>Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.</b> (R)
7.50	<b>Scrambled!: Ben 10.</b> Embracing the cool action-packed energy that made the original show a worldwide sensation, and turbo-powering the laughs for a new generation of fans, hero time is back!
8.10	<b>Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.</b> (R)
8.30	<b>Scrambled!: Make It Pop.</b> Adventures with good friends and room-mates Sun Hi Song and Corki Chang.
9.00	<b>Scrambled!: Wishfart.</b> (R)
9.25	<b>ITV News.</b>
9.30	<b>Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears.</b> The host explores a wooded wilderness in Western Australia. Last in the series. (R)
10.00	<b>Peston on Sunday.</b> Political magazine. Last in the series.
10.55	<b>The Martin Lewis Money Show.</b> Advice on the huge savings that can be made while shopping. (R)
11.25	<b>Save Money: Good Food.</b> The team helps a Rotherham family cut the cost of their meals. (R)
12.00	<b>Tipping Point.</b> Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
1.00	<b>ITV News and Weather;</b> Weather.
1.05	<b>The X Factor: Live Final.</b> Dermot O'Leary presents the first of two grand final shows. (R)
3.10	<b>Midsomer Murders.</b> A planning dispute leads to murder. With Hugo Speer. (R)
5.05	<b>How to Spend It Well at Christmas with Phillip Schofield.</b> Festive consumer advice. (R)
6.05	<b>ITV News Central;</b> Weather.
6.15	<b>ITV News and Weather.</b>
6.25	<b>The Chase Celebrity Special.</b> Gregg Wallace, Denise Lewis, Mark Pougatch and Gina Yashere answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh.
7.20	<b>The X Factor: Live Final.</b> Dermot O'Leary introduces the climax of the talent contest, as the two remaining acts give their final performance before this year's winner is announced. Last in the series.
9.00	<b>I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!</b> Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle.
10.30	<b>ITV News and Weather;</b> Weather.
10.45	<b>Peston on Sunday.</b> Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton. Last in the series. (R)
11.45	<b>Car Crash Britain: Caught on Camera.</b> Road accidents and near-misses, including a woman who had a close shave when a car ploughed into her office, parallel parking calamities and a new driver with no beginners' luck. (R)
12.35	<b>Jackpot247.</b>
3.00	<b>Motorsport UK.</b>
3.50	<b>ITV Nightscreen.</b>
5.05	<b>The Jeremy Kyle Show.</b> (R)

Channel 4	
6.20	<b>Kevin Can Wait.</b> Part one of two. Kevin comes out of retirement.
6.45	<b>Kevin Can Wait.</b> Part two of two. Kevin has to put work before his friends.
7.10	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Frank becomes jealous of Marco and Marie's friendship. (R)
7.35	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Ray is propositioned by an attractive woman. (R)
8.00	<b>Everybody Loves Raymond.</b> Ray and Debra conceal an embarrassing accident. (R)
8.30	<b>Frasier.</b> Someone impersonates Frasier. (R)
9.00	<b>Frasier.</b> An attractive psychologist dates Frasier. (R)
9.30	<b>Sunday Brunch.</b> With guests Len Goodman, Sam Nixon, Mark Rhodes, Kerry Fox and Midge Ure.
12.30	<b>Paul Hollywood: A Baker's Life.</b> The Bake Off judge shares his favourite recipes. (R)
1.00	<b>F1 2017: Hamilton's Record Breaking Season.</b> A look back at the 2017 Formula One season.
2.00	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Lisa goes on a rampage through school. (R)
2.30	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Marge joins a women's group. (R)
2.55	<b>The Simpsons.</b> Mr Burns prepares to get married. (R)
3.25	<b>The Simpsons.</b> A judge rules that Homer is a negligent father. (R)
3.55	<b>FILM: Arthur Christmas (2011).</b> Animated comedy, with the voice of James McAvoy.
5.50	<b>FILM: Shrek (2001).</b> Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers.
7.30	<b>Channel 4 News.</b>
8.00	<b>Coastal Railways with Julie Walters.</b> The actress travels from Newcastle to Edinburgh by train, stopping off at the coastal town of Alnmouth and the world's biggest gannet colony, and meeting a lobster breeder.
9.00	<b>FILM: Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011).</b> The secret agent team is falsely implicated in a bombing, and pursues the real terrorist around the globe. Action adventure sequel, starring Tom Cruise and Jeremy Renner.
11.35	<b>FILM: I, Frankenstein (2014).</b> The scientist's monster is caught up in a war between supernatural beings who want the secret of his immortality. Fantasy adventure, with Aaron Eckhart and Bill Nighy.
1.15	<b>FILM: Morning Glory (2010).</b> A TV producer tries to revive an early morning TV show's fortunes, but has to contend with presenters who hate each other. Comedy, with Rachel McAdams and Harrison Ford.
3.00	<b>Trump: An American Dream.</b> A new wife, a hit TV show and the ultimate prize in world politics. Last in the series.
3.55	<b>Gillette World Sport.</b> Including a profile of fixed-gear cyclist Patrick Seabase.
4.25	<b>KOTV Boxing Weekly.</b> Sam Eggington v Mohamed Mimoun.
4.50	<b>Mobil 1 The Grid.</b> Including a review of the year. (R)
5.20	<b>Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.</b> Kirstie Allsopp tries out recipes for Cornish pasties and Yorkshire puddings. (R)
5.35	<b>Countdown.</b> With Richard Madeley in Dictionary Corner. (R)

Channel 5	
6.00	<b>Milkshake!: Little Princess</b> 6.10 Wanda and the Alien 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.35 Wissper 6.40 Milkshake! Monkey 6.45 Milkshake! Bopping About 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.15 Digby Dragon 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.45 Olly the Little White Van 7.55 Paw Patrol 8.10 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.25 Shimmer and Shine 8.40 Peppa Pig 8.50 Peppa Pig
8.55	<b>FIA Formula E.</b> Action from the second race of the Hong Kong ePrix.
10.40	<b>Football on 5: The Championship.</b> Highlights from the weekend's games. (R)
11.25	<b>FILM: Finding Father Christmas (2016).</b> Drama, starring Erin Krakow.
1.10	<b>FILM: The Christmas Secret (2014).</b> Drama, starring Bethany Joy Lenz.
2.55	<b>FILM: On the 12th Day of Christmas (2015).</b> Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Brooke Nevins.
3.55	<b>5 News Update.</b>
4.00	<b>FILM: On the 12th Day of Christmas (2015).</b> Concluded.
4.45	<b>FILM: Northpole: Open for Christmas (2015).</b> Premiere. Festive fantasy sequel, starring Bailee Madison.
5.45	<b>5 News Update.</b>
5.50	<b>FILM: Northpole: Open for Christmas (2015).</b> Concluded.
6.30	<b>FILM: Call Me Claus (2001).</b> A cynical female TV producer meets Father Christmas and learns he intends to melt her icy heart and make her his replacement. Family drama, with Whoopi Goldberg and Nigel Hawthorne.
8.15	<b>Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights.</b> Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 10th round of matches, including Northampton Saints v Newcastle Falcons, Exeter Chiefs v Bath, and Harlequins v Saracens.
8.55	<b>5 News Weekend.</b>
9.00	<b>The Paul O'Grady Story.</b> Profile of the talk show host, exploring his formative years as a social worker and showbiz career appearing as both himself and his drag act alter ego Lily Savage. (R)
10.35	<b>When Reality TV Goes Horribly Wrong.</b> Vicky Pattison narrates a countdown of disastrous incidents on reality shows, featuring Nikki Grahame, Bianca Gascoigne, Paul Danan and Jessie Cave.
1.30	<b>Lip Sync Battle UK: Carol Vorderman v Martin Kemp.</b> The celebrity mathematician takes on the pop singer and actor. (R)
1.55	<b>SuperCasino.</b> Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10	<b>Bargain-Loving Brits in Blackpool.</b> A hotelier who is keeping the Punch and Judy tradition alive. Last in the series. (R)
4.00	<b>My Mum's Hotter Than Me!</b> People who will stop at nothing to outdo their children or grandchildren. (R)
4.50	<b>House Doctor.</b> A Victorian semi in Camberley, Surrey, gets a makeover. (R)
5.15	<b>Wildlife SOS.</b> The work of a wildlife sanctuary. (R)
5.45	<b>Chinese Food in Minutes.</b> Two professional ice-skaters learn to prepare traditional oriental dishes. (R)



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# Five-star crash rating for Volvo XC60

The new Volvo XC60 SUV has scored the best overall safety rating of any car in 2017 after achieving the full five stars in Euro NCAP crash tests.

The car safety organisation has released its latest ratings, with all eight newly tested cars achieving five stars out of five. However, the XC60 was exceptional when individual section ratings were taken into account. It scored a near-perfect 98 per cent for adult occupant protection and 95 per cent for its standard-fit safety systems.

It also scored 87 per cent for child occupant protection and 76 per cent for pedestrians.

## All-round

Euro NCAP says this makes it the best all-round performer of the year and puts the XC60 on a par with its larger sibling, the Volvo XC90.

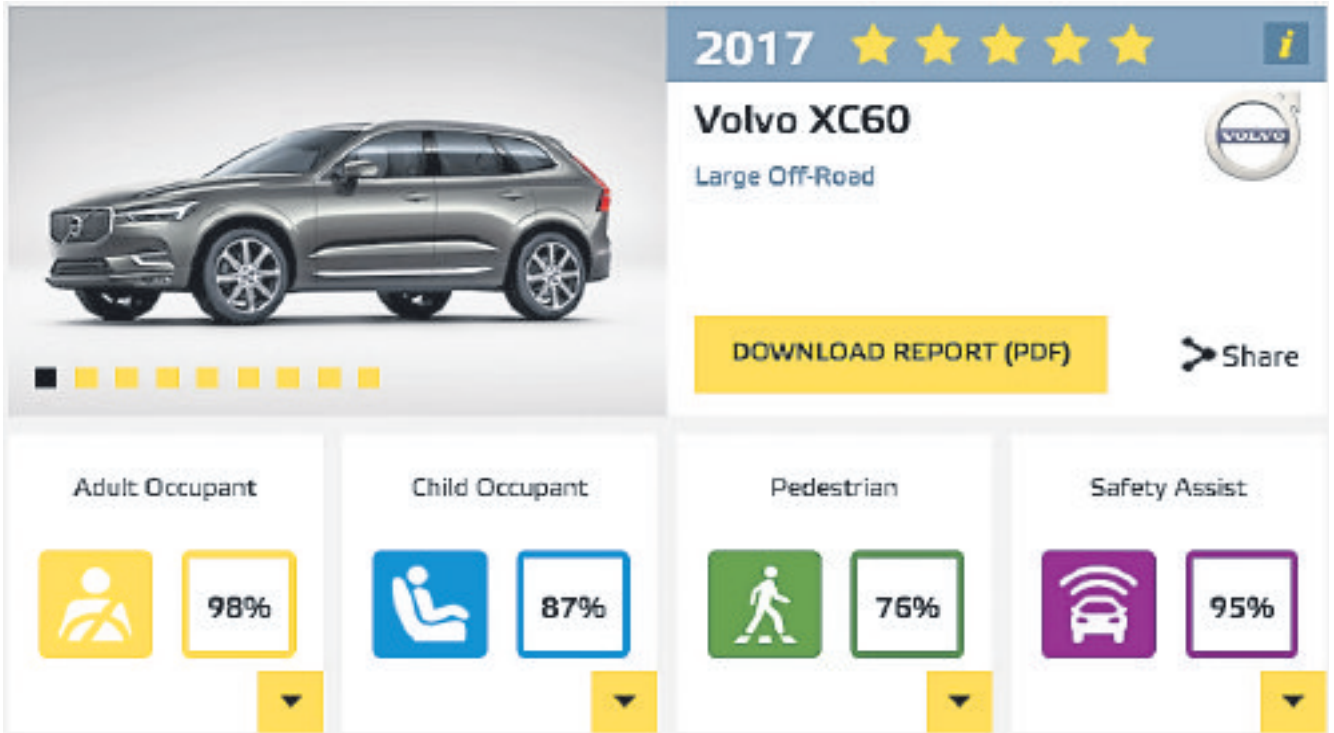
Matthew Avery, director of research at Thatcham Research, which is a member of the Euro NCAP organisation, said: "It's exceedingly rare for a vehicle to score so favourably across the board. The adult occupant protection result for the Volvo XC60 is one of the best on record. But it's in active safety that Volvo is really maintaining its lead."

He said that some of the Volvo's safety kit was so advanced it was not yet part of the testing procedure.

Of the other cars to be tested recently, four new VW Group products got top marks in the form of the VW T-Roc, VW Polo, Skoda Karoq and Seat Arona.

Meanwhile the Citroen C3 Aircross, Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross and Vauxhall Crossland X also got five stars.

Michiel van Ratingen, secretary general of Euro NCAP, said he was pleased to see top-end cars like the Volvo XC60 pushing safety boundaries, but added: "It is the high-selling mass-market vehicles that will really influence road safety in the future and manufacturers like Nissan, Ford, Seat and VW are to be congratulated for democratising safety by making high-tech safety assistance available on their superminis."



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# BRZ is updated from top to bottom

By Graham Breeze

A Subaru without four-wheel-drive just doesn't seem right – but that's just what you get with the updated BRZ sports coupe.

It's the company's first dalliance with rear-wheel-drive and the 2.0i SE Lux Auto on test has been updated from top to bottom and that means inside, outside, under the bonnet, suspension and even safety levels.

Outwardly the changes are subtle rather than dramatic, despite Subaru's claims that this is an all-new model. Yes, it's a little wider with a slightly lower stance and an aerodynamic spoiler, but probably the most noticeable change sees the introduction of stunning 10-spoke alloys.

Inside the BRZ has been dragged into the 21st century with the introduction of a 6.2-inch colour multi-function display unit, better quality materials have been used and I was particularly taken with the new and smaller leather steering wheel.

The fascia update was long overdue and is a big improvement over the previous unit but is still not up to the standard of rivals in this 2-plus-2 sector which includes Mazda MX5, Peugeot RcZ and Audi TT.

The guys at Subaru say BRZ was built to deliver a linear driving feel, ensuring that the car responds exactly as the driver intended and to make this happen the suspension, engine and drivetrain have been refined to further enhance handling and driving experience.

And I think they can justify that claim. It's been a long while since I drove the outgoing model but if memory serves well the new model is more stable with the rear-driven axle



Updated with a 6.2-inch display unit

not totally dominating and providing a much more stable feel at speed.

Those who know a little about engines will appreciate that inside the Subaru hallmark Boxer engine the strength of the cylinder blocks has been increased, the valve stems have been buffed and polished, the camshaft is lower friction and the weight of the rocker arms has been reduced.

Add those changes together and you get a more responsive, fuel efficient engine which averages 40mpg on the combined cycle, has a top speed of 130mph and gets you to 62mph in just 8.2 seconds.

Redesigned dampers have reduced some body roll on bends and that keeps vibration levels down too, while engaging the new "Track" mode improves overall stability to give that extra bit of sporty performance.

Hill Start Assist has been introduced to help with uphill starts or downhill reversing and a next-generation advanced airbag system added which uses upgraded sensors for a greater level of safety.



The car is now a little wider with a slightly lower stance, an aerodynamic spoiler and stunning 10-spoke alloys

The front seats are comfortable enough and there's all the steering adjustment you need to find the right driving position but even the smallest kids would find no leg room in the back of this 2-plus-2 and don't plan to go golfing as there's not enough room for the clubs in the boot.

It's questionable whether this Subaru is value for money because with the Sat Nav system fitted it will set you back £27,680 –

though does any two-seater really get judged on price? I doubt it.

Standard equipment includes, power windows, remote controlled central locking, keyless entry, centre cup holders, 12-volt power outlets, boot upper floor storage, dual-zone air conditioning, Subaru's Starlink infotainment system, voice recognition system, Bluetooth and paddle-shift gearchange.

Safety levels are high with airbags all-round, side door reinforcement beams, steering column support beam, ABS and Brake Assist systems, alarm and engine immobiliser and the Track mode function.

Will Subaru's first venture into the rear-wheel drive market be a success? Only time will tell but there's a lot of competition in the sector and questions will be asked about if the changes are revolutionary enough.

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# Kia's new hot Stinger GT S saloon lives up to the hype

By Simon Davis

**What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Kia? Most likely, it'll be a small, reasonably priced hatchback that's well-built but not particularly exciting. Something along the lines of a Rio or a Cee'd.**

Chances are, a 365bhp, twin-turbo V6 sports saloon would be the last thing you'd expect. However, with the new £40,495 Stinger GT S, that's exactly what Kia has gone and built. Quite a bold move, then, for a company that has traditionally made cars you're more likely to see at the local garden centre than the race track.

The Stinger is an all-new car for the South Korean manufacturer, as well as its first attempt at a proper performance saloon.

It's an evolution of the Kia GT Concept that was unveiled six years ago at the 2011 Frankfurt Motor Show, and has been developed under the watchful eye of Albert Biermann – the former head of BMW's M Division and the man responsible for the cracking new Hyundai i30 N hot hatchback.

## Powerful

That development process has seen the Stinger put through its paces, too. It saw the new "gran turismo" lap the infamous Nürburgring Nordschleife at least 480 times, and also travel to all corners of the globe as part of its extreme climate testing.

Launching a car such as the Stinger GT S could be seen as quite a risky move. It comes at a time where emissions regulations are becoming increasingly stringent, and where consumers are shifting away from big, powerful saloons. It almost seems like the Stinger GT S would be the last car a sensible, volume manufacturer such as Kia would then go and produce. Based on our first drive, though, we're certainly pleased common sense appears to have been put to one side.

Below that long, low bonnet, sits the Stinger's party piece. The top-spec GT S model is powered by a 3.3-litre twin-turbocharged V6 engine that develops a considerable 365bhp and 510Nm of torque – all of which is sent to the rear wheels via an eight-speed automatic transmission.

That V6 allows the Stinger GT S to complete the benchmark sprint from 0-60mph in just 4.7 seconds, making it the fastest-accelerating Kia ever produced. Top speed sits at a respectable 168mph.

As far as fuel consumption is concerned, Kia claims the Stinger will manage 28.5mpg on the combined cycle, while CO2 emissions stand at 225g/km.

Kia is adamant that the new Stinger GT S is a gran turismo, and not a sports car – though you'd traditionally consider a GT to be something like an Aston Martin, with a big V8 engine.

Regardless of how you define the Stinger, though, as a



It is an excellent balance between being a fast, comfortable long-distance cruiser and a sports saloon

first attempt at a properly performance-orientated vehicle it's seriously impressive. That V6 isn't the shoutiest or most characterful engine in the world, but it lends the Kia some real straight-line pace and means overtaking manoeuvres are dispatched with ease.

Twisty roads won't cause the Stinger to break a sweat, either. While the steering doesn't provide a huge amount of feel, it's nicely weighted and allows you to place the car with confidence. Pop the car into sport with the drive mode selector and it becomes a bit livelier – in short, it provokes the Stinger just enough to make it the right level of angry.

Move away from twisty back roads and out onto a dual-carriageway or motorway, and the Stinger settles down to become a comfortable, relaxing long-distance tourer. This is where you can see the claimed "gran turismo" characteristics shine through the most.

While we've never really been fans of the way fastback-style cars such as the Audi A7 and BMW 4 Series Gran Coupe look, the Kia Stinger manages to pull the image off rather well.

It's by no means the prettiest car in the world, but it is handsome in its proportions, and that swept-back roofline really adds to its visual appeal.

Kia has really stepped its game up as far as the Stinger's interior is concerned. There isn't a great deal of cheap and nasty materials on display, and the circular air vents in the middle of the dash look like they could have been lifted straight out of the cabin of a Mercedes-Benz.

Interior space is generous, too. The driver and front seat passenger are treated to plenty of headroom, and they certainly won't be short of any elbow room thanks to a fairly wide centre console. That swooping roofline does cut into rear headroom somewhat, although the 2,905mm wheelbase means there's no shortage of legroom.

The Stinger's hatchback-style boot offers 406 litres of storage capacity, meaning it can easily swallow a couple of suitcases or a large weekly shop.

At £40,495, the Stinger isn't exactly what you'd call cheap, but you do get a lot of car for your money. In addition to the performance from the 3.3-litre V6, standard kit is also incredibly generous.

All Stinger GT S models benefit from an eight-inch touchscreen infotainment system that incorporates satellite navigation, DAB radio, Bluetooth connectivity, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto as standard. There's also leather-upholstered seats with heating and ventilation up front, as well as a 15-speaker Harmon/Kardon sound system.

A suite of safety systems that include autonomous emergency braking and lane-keep assist are also fitted for that added peace of mind.

The Stinger GT S strikes an excellent balance between being a fast, comfortable long-distance cruiser and a properly exciting sports saloon. While it's not quite as raucous as we'd hoped it might be, its dynamic abilities are impressive and are (hopefully) a sign of things to come from the South Korean manufacturer.

## One-off satin black and gold McLaren



McLaren has revealed a one-off 720S supercar, which has a quote from the company's founder inscribed in gold Arabic lettering on its bodywork.

The specially commissioned 720S is a 'one of one' production by McLaren Special

Operations (MSO), which handles the Woking-based manufacturer's bespoke creations. On display at the Dubai motor show, it is being delivered to a customer in the region.

A black satin paint covers the bodywork, with gold-coloured alloy wheels and a 24-carat gold engine heat shield finishing the unique look. Various carbon-fibre parts were fitted, including the air intakes, front splitter and rear diffuser, while the interior is upholstered in black Alcantara and leather.

The most demanding bespoke creation was the rear wing, which has "Life is measured in achievement, not in years alone" – this is part of a quote by the supercar maker's founder Bruce McLaren. It has been translated into Arabic, and the inscription has been stylised to look like the Dubai skyline. It took 30 hours to complete.

Andreas Bareis, managing director Middle East, Africa & Latin America for McLaren Automotive, said: "The quote from Bruce McLaren rings true not only of the history of McLaren, but also the achievements of the UAE and the Gulf states over the last four decades.

"The UAE and the region are very important to McLaren, not only in terms of our client base, but also because of the support from our shareholders. This car pays tribute to that."

The McLaren 720S is the latest supercar to be built at the company's Woking factory. It is the next-generation version of the company's Super Series cars, featuring a 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 engine producing more than 710bhp.



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# How to improve a car's performance by 70%

The effectiveness consultancy Benchmarking recently analysed what happens when companies include press advertising in their media mix.

They looked at more than 500 econometric models, covering a five-year period and, as the table here shows, they found that adding newspapers dramatically increases the effectiveness of other media.

In the automotive sector they reviewed companies that ranged from the big spending German goliaths of the industry to medium sized independent carmakers.

And they discovered that by adding newspaper advertising to their campaigns, they cranked up their effectiveness by over 70%.

## Increased effectiveness using newspapers

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## Sky Bet League One

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wigan Athletic	19	13	3	36	12	42
Shrewsbury	19	12	4	36	13	40
Southampton	20	11	5	26	14	38
Bradford City	20	11	3	29	22	36
Blackburn Rovers	18	10	4	30	15	34
Charlton Athletic	18	10	4	27	21	34
Peterborough United	18	10	4	29	27	32
Oxford United	20	7	6	34	27	27
Blackpool	19	7	6	24	23	27
Fleetwood Town	20	7	6	29	30	27
Rotherham	19	7	6	27	28	25
Walsall	19	7	6	27	28	25
Southend United	19	6	7	22	29	24
MK Dons	20	6	7	22	29	24
Doncaster Rovers	19	6	7	23	25	23
Oldham Athletic	19	6	7	23	25	23
Bristol Rovers	19	7	0	12	27	31
Rochdale	19	4	8	7	20	24
FC Wrexham	20	5	10	15	22	20
Grimsby	20	8	8	15	22	20
Northampton	20	5	11	15	32	19
Bury	20	4	5	11	28	17
Plymouth Argyle	20	4	5	11	28	17

## Vanarama National N

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Salford City	10	15	2	2	35	14
Hastings	9	11	5	3	35	15
Brackley	9	11	5	3	35	15
Blyth Spartans	9	12	0	7	46	33
Spennymoor	9	10	4	5	35	27
York City	10	8	5	6	33	27
Bradford Park	10	8	5	6	33	27
K'minster	9	7	6	5	31	26
Chorley	9	7	6	5	31	26
Tarnworth	9	8	3	8	28	27
Stockport	10	7	6	7	36	27
AFC Telford	10	8	11	0	28	25
Carlisle United	10	7	7	6	26	25
Alfreton Town	10	7	2	10	31	22
Darlington	10	7	2	10	31	22
Leamington	10	7	2	10	31	22
Gainsborough	9	6	3	9	25	21
Southport	10	6	8	2	24	29
FC United of M.	9	10	2	11	28	37
Doncaster	10	7	1	11	27	28
Boston United	9	4	4	11	24	36
N Ferriby United	9	4	4	11	24	36

## Evo-Stik League

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Basford United	9	15	3	0	39	15
Alfreton Town	9	10	3	3	35	23
Stockport	9	10	3	3	35	23
Alfreton Town	9	10	3	3	35	23
Alfreton Town	9	10	3	3	35	23
Alfreton Town	9	10	3	3	35	23
Alfreton Town	9	10	3	3	35	23
Alfreton Town	9	10	3	3	35	23
Alfreton Town	9	10	3	3	35	23
Alfreton Town	9	10	3	3	35	23

## Hallmark Security League

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Silsden AFC	19	18	0	1	53	14
Litherton	19	12	2	2	47	58
Prestwich H.	18	12	1	5	53	26
Alfington Town	17	11	3	4	21	36
AFC Telford	17	11	3	4	21	36
Sandbach	18	10	1	7	36	30
Cammell L.	19	8	4	7	41	35
Whitchurch A.	14	8	2	4	29	26
Stockport	17	11	3	4	21	36
Heath Old Boys	17	9	3	9	27	27
Carlisle City	16	7	2	7	30	23
Alfington TR	17	7	2	8	30	23
FC Oswestry	19	7	1	11	33	42
Heath Old Boys	17	9	3	9	27	27
New Mills	17	6	3	8	33	43
Chadderton	18	5	8	3	41	21
Chadderton	18	5	8	3	41	21
Chadderton	18	5	8	3	41	21
Chadderton	18	5	8	3	41	21
Chadderton	18	5	8	3	41	21

## Midland Football League

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Colehill Town	19	13	3	3	22	42
Sporting Khalsa	19	12	5	2	22	41
Bromsgrove Spig	19	12	5	2	22	41
Worcester City	17	10	4	3	25	34
Coventry Sphinx	17	10	4	3	25	34
Coventry United	17	9	3	5	14	30
Highgate United	16	9	4	8	30	30
Shephard Dyno	17	8	3	6	15	27
Westfields	15	8	2	5	14	26
Heanor Town	17	8	2	7	0	26
Walsingham	17	8	2	7	0	26
AFC Wulfrunians	18	8	0	10	14	24
Stourport Swifts	16	7	2	7	5	23
Loughborough Uni	17	6	3	8	6	21
Lye Town	17	6	3	8	6	21
Long Eaton U.	17	6	3	8	6	21
Haughmond	17	3	4	10	13	13
Rochester	16	3	4	9	16	13
South Norman Ath.	18	3	4	11	19	13
Westfield	19	10	3	4	14	33
Quorn	17	2	3	12	13	9
Shawbury United	16	2	2	12	13	8

## West Midlands League

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42
W Tonty C.	16	14	0	2	64	42

## Division 1

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Newport Town	16	10	4	2	39	34
Team Dudley	16	9	4	1	16	31
Worcester Raiders	14	9	4	1	14	31
Old Wulfrunians	15	9	3	4	9	30
Gornal Athletic	15	9	3	4	17	29
Wem Town	14	10	2	1	17	26
Darlaston (1874)	14	7	4	3	6	25
Bustleholme	15	7	1	7	3	22
Telford Juniors	17	6	2	9	7	20
Bromyard Town	15	6	2	9	7	20
St Martins	15	6	1	9	7	19
Tipton Town	14	5	3	6	1	18
Aliscott	15	5	3	7	2	18
Wrens Nest	12	3	0	9	13	9
Kingston Town	15	3	0	18	28	2
Wylley	14	2	3	9	28	9
Willenhall Town	15	1	3	11	47	6

## Division 2

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sikh Hunters	15	12	2	1	38	30
Warstone Wand	12	10	2	2	31	30
W Tonty United	14	9	2	3	23	29
Bewdley T Res	11	8	2	1	27	26
Gornal Cops	12	8	2	2	7	26
Rock Rovers	15	6	1	8	0	19
Wunder Vaults	15	6	1	8	0	19
AFC Bilbrook	14	4	4	6	2	16
Ludlow	13	4	4	6	8	13
M Drayton T Res	10	4	4	6	8	13
AFC Broxley	11	3	5	5	17	12
Church Street	12	3	1	8	5	10
F.C Darlaston	12	2	3	7	14	9
Oldbury United	13	2	3	7	16	9
AFC B North Dev	0	1	13	5	51	1

## Welsh Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
The New Saints	14	10	3	34	13	32
Cardiff M. United	15	9	3	26	10	30
Bangor City	15	10	5	29	19	30
Connah's Quay	15	8	4	3	19	28
Celtic Dragons	14	8	5	23	23	28
Bala Town FC	15	6	2	6	17	23
Llandudno FC	15	6	2	7	19	20
Barry T.	15	5	2	8	12	16
FC United of M.	10	5	4	3	8	15
Albany City	14	4	3	8	17	25
Prestatyn T.	15	4	3	8	20	30
Carmarthen T.	15	1	1	13	40	4

## Huws Gray Alliance

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30
Denbigh T.	10	8	4	3	25	25
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30
Caernarfon T.	13	9	3	1	51	30

## Spar Mid Wales League

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Walspool	15	10	3	2	52	23
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28
Llanharad T.	12	9	1	2	41	28

## Watson Financial Mid

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rhayader T.	9	9	0	4	48	9
Neuadd T.	9	7	0	2	31	16
Newcastle	8	6	1	1	28	19
Prestatyn Res.	9	5	1	3	25	21
Builth Wells Res	9	5	1	3	25	21
St Harmon	10	4	1	5	20	27
Knights R Res	8	3	3	2	33	21
H St Marys Res	8	3	3	2	33	21
Llond Wels Res	10	2	1	7	13	8
B St Marys Res	10	2	1	7	13	8
Feindre	11	1	0	10	11	7

## Shropshire Premier League

P	W	D	L	F	A	P
O'gates Ath.	10	8	1	1	32	17
Shrewsbury J.	10	8	2	3	21	24
Prestatyn Res.	9	5	1	3	25	21
Newport T Res	10	5	0	2	33	20
Madley Sports	11	5	1	5	18	16
Oakenhams Yth	12	5	0	7	36	12
Cle Hill United	9	4	1	4	38	13
Golden Valley	10	2	1	7	10	11
Shifnal United	9	0	8	12	32	3
Craven Arms	9	1	0	8	10	35



Bridgnorth-based Excalibur Martial Arts Club's students have been presented with black belts by chief instructor Seamus McGinley. ■ Pictured (from left) are Connor, Reilly and Erin McGinley and Luke Richardson with instructor McGinley.

Four Crosses.....	10	6	2	2	30	16	20	Sale.....	12	9	1	2	380	154	4
Waterloo Rovers.....	12	4	3	5	23	18	15	South Leicester.....	12	7	2	3	365	324	3
Llanfair Res.....	10	4	2	4	25	22	14	Sheffield Tigers.....	7	0	5	0	307	374	3
Trewern Utd.....	8	4	1	3	21	19	13	Leicester Lions.....	12	6	0	6	297	267	3
Llanymynech.....	10	3	2	5	15	27	11	Huddersfield.....	12	6	1	5	328	290	3
Merfod.....	10	3	1	6	14	21	10	Chester.....	12	6	0	6	221	298	2
Llanfyllin.....	11	2	3	6	20	25	9	Blaydon.....	12	3	0	9	237	373	3
Maesyrhandir.....	11	2	3	6	25	43	9	Macclesfield.....	11	3	0	8	252	300	3
Cae'rws Res.....	7	2	0	5	11	35	6	Luctonians.....	12	3	0	9	221	390	3



## Llanfair's win keeps up pressure at the top

LLANFAIR UNITED kept up the pressure in third spot in the Spar Mid Wales League division one after overcoming Bow Street 2-1 at the Mount Field.

In a game played at a frenetic pace, United took the lead on 16 minutes when Andrew Hughes crossed for cousin Phil Hughes to tap in at the back post.

Bow Street were on level terms from a corner six minutes later, but Llanfair got their noses back in front when Andrew Hughes converted a Paul Griffiths free-kick just before the hour.

That was how the scoring stayed, with victory keeping Llanfair in third spot, seven points adrift of leaders Welshpool.

Fourth placed Llandloes Town were made to work before maintaining their division one challenge with a 2-1 victory over lowly Machynlleth at Victoria Avenue.

After the disappointment of their FAW Trophy exit to Llanrug United, the Daffs were back on track courtesy of first half goals from Harri Clarke and Ryan Biggs.

But Mach showed plenty of spirit, pulling one back before the interval. But Llani held firm to stay in touch with Welshpool with three games in hand.

At the other end of the table, **KERRY'S** poor run continued after crashing 5-1 at Carno whose Jordan Jones fired a hat-trick, with Scott Williams and Andy Evans completing the tally.

**CHURCHSTOKE** are also in trouble following their 2-1 home loss to Tywyn Brynrcug which saw them slip to third bottom after Aberaeron eased their basement plight by overcoming Knighton Town 2-1.

# Pool high-fliers hit by last-gasp leveller

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**HIGH-FLYING** Welshpool Town were held in check as Berriew snatched a last-gasp leveller in an entertaining Spar Mid Wales League division one derby at Maesydre.

Goals from Will Thomas and Ricky Litchfield put Pool in sight of another three points, but the Rhiewsidiers - after a first equaliser from Richard Davies - ensured a 2-2 draw through an injury time strike from Matt Mumford.

Despite the draw, Welshpool remain five points clear at the top after second placed Llanrhaeadr were held 2-2 at home to Radnor Valley.

Pool, playing downhill in the first half, enjoyed the better of the first 25 minutes, and took the lead when the visitors failed to deal with a ball over the top, Adam Davies outmusled his marker before squaring for Thomas - who scored six the previous week - to slot in.

Berriew then came more into the game and were back on terms before yhe break as Richard Davies broke through before rounding keeper Dave Littleford and slotting into the net.

Spurred by the goal, the Rhiewsidiers had plenty of possession in the opening exchanges of the second period, but failed to capitalise.

And it was Welshpool who got their noses in front again when the the visitors were again exposed on 73 minutes, and Litchfield made no mistake to fire past keeper Harry Wilkinson.

With the visitors pushing forward in search of a reply, the Lilywhites had chances to put make the game safe, but Wilkinson pulled off a couple of excellent saves.

Gary Hughes headed over at the other end and when Littleford pulled off a terrific save to turn away a goal bound Karl Seliearts half volley, it looked like Pool would hold firm for the points.

But Berriew pushed everyone forward for the resulting a corner and, when the ball was half cleared, Seliearts drove a cross back into the goalmouth and defender Mumford turned into the net to stun the league leaders.

**LLANRHAEDR** failed to capitalise after being locked in a 2-2 draw at home to Radnor Valley who fully deserved a share of the spoils for their efforts.

In their last match before next Saturday's Welsh Cup showdown with Cefn Druids, Llan took a 15th minute lead when Dan Graham headed in a Dale Evans corner.

Valley were back on terms five minutes later, Joey Price converting a penalty after Tommy Evans had fouled in the box. But the home side had their chances, and restored their advantage before the break when a Glenn Evans free kick was headed in by Kyham Wyton.

The visitors, however, were up for the battle, and showed plenty of purpose in the second period and earned parity through Price's second goal of the game with a terrific free kick.

It was nip and tuck after that, but neither side could go on and take the three points. Llan stay five points behind Welshpool but have three games in hand.

## Olympian quartet run for county



Oswestry Olympians (from left) Massimo Wyatt, Mia Wyatt, Lucy Othen and Anna Rothera with their

FOUR junior Oswestry Olympian runners made their Shropshire cross country debuts when competing against athletes from seven counties in an inter-regional competition held at Warwickshire College.

Marches pupils, Anna Rothera, Mia Wyatt and Massimo Wyatt and club team mate Lucy Othen of Lakelands School all successfully completed their races.

They were blessed with fine

weather in sharp contrast to their fellow club members who encountered sun, rain, hail, sleet and snow in their Saturday morning training in the woods near Gub-acre under the guidance of club junior co-ordinator Tracy Bath-ers.

Despite a large entry at Warwick, Massimo, who has previously represented Shropshire in Sportshall Athletics, completed the last year 7 course in a cred-

itable 42nd.

There was also a very large entry for the 8 & 9 girls race in which the Olympians finished close together with Anna 75th, Mia 77th and Lucy 79th.

Commenting after the event Anita Wyatt, one of the Olympians coaches who accompanied the team, said what a great experience it had been for the Oswestry youngsters to compete at such a level.

## Guils made to fight all the way by strugglers

GUILDSFIELD were made to battle hard before finally putting paid to basement side Queens Park 2-1 at Clos Mytton to keep the pressure on the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance leaders.

The villagers went ahead with an own goal from Matty Williams on 28 minutes, before doubling their advantage through Chris Cathrall on the hour.

Shaun Cartwright pulled one back with a penalty six minutes from time to set up a tight finish, but the Guils held firm to maintain their unbeaten home form this term.

Boss Nathan Leonard admitted his side lacked the intensity of previous weeks after being frustrated for long spells by a side struggling in the relegation zone.

"We did not play well," he said. "The soft pitch did not suit us, but that is no excuse as it is the same for both sides.

"We didn't play with any tempo and any real intensity. They showed the game down, and we ended up playing at their pace.

"Had we taken our chances, it would have been more comfortable, but it was another win and we now move on."

Guilsfield, despite having most of the possession and attacking opportunities, huffed and puffed before putting paid to a spirited Queens Park.

The Wrexham visitors stayed in the hunt courtesy of a resilient defence and some excellent goalkeeping throughout.

Jake Cook threatened for the home side early on. but was the target of some rough tackling, and did not emerge for the second half.

Guils looked the more threatening, and took the lead on 28 minutes as Louis Irvine broke towards the by-line before his cross shot was deflected into his own net at the near post by defender Matty Williams.

Curtis Weetman went close to doubling the advantage but his shot struck the post just before the half time whistle.

### Lifeline

After half time, the Guils gave themselves some breathing space when Chris Cathrall's strike doubled the lead on 59 minutes, but the villagers could not add to the tally.

And Queens Park were thrown a lifeline when awarded a penalty six minutes from time following a foul by keeper Andy Wycherley, and Cartwright duly dispatched the resulting spot kick.

But the Guils were not to be denied, and picked up another useful three points to stay in range of leaders Caernarfon Town.

Meanwhile, Caersws' performances have picked up - but they remain in the basement places after a 3-2 defeat at Denbigh Town despite a rousing second half showing.

The Bluebirds could take plenty of positives from another display that could have yielded far more after carving a string of good chances.

They were always chasing the game after falling behind to a penalty from Kristian Pierce on 15 minutes after Craig Pritchard had been brought down by Phil Jones.

Warren Duckett made it 2-0 six minutes after after the visitors had lost possession, while Caersws then spurned a penalty when Elliot Jones' spot kick was saved after the hosts had handled.

They did, however, hit the net moments later on 27 minutes when a fine ball from Craig Harries found Steve Blenkinsop who made no mistake.

But a second goal from Duckett, a looping 25-yard strike in off the bar four minutes before the break, left the Bluebirds with plenty to do in the second half.

However, they rallied again, pulling a goal back on the hour when Luke Sherbon headed home from a Jake Parr assist.

## Town show real fight to net victory

FC Oswestry Town twice came from behind to maintain their resurgence in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one with a hard fought 3-2 victory at lowly St Helens Town.

The win, their seventh in their last nine league outings. was all the more satisfying for the fact that Town made the trip with a depleted side and a makeshift defence.

They did it the hard way after going behind in just the third minute to a strike from Alex Ashby before levelling through Jack Harris on 25 minutes after a terrific team move.

The Mersey hosts, despite their lowly league position, regained the advantage through Shaun Brady on the half hour, but Town were not to be denied as Chris Bishop levelled from close range on 67 minutes after more good work on the right by Jacob Farleigh.

With the encounter finely poised, Sam Thomas clinched the points seven minutes from time when heading in a corner from the impressive Farleigh - the third assist from the player on loan from TNS.

Victory lifted the Oswestry men up to 13th, their highest position this season, and well in range of a number of sides above them.

The games are coming thick and fast, with a trip to Litherland REMYCA on Wednesday night before hosting Eccleshall on Saturday as Town look to continue their impressive revival.

"There's a real buzz in the dressing room at the moment," said joint boss Ryan Butcher.

"It's been a great turnaround after having just three points after 12 games, but we always knew we had it in us.

"We had a lot missing against St Helens, we conceded a couple of sloppy goals as we had a makeshift back four, so we knew that we had to make the most of our chances at the other end."

# Saints back on top but scoreline flatters

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

flattered us overall," he said. "We didn't play well, but the positive thing is that it's another three points and we're back at the top of the table.

"But we can't afford to turn it on and off. It's got to be some week in week out if the players are to reach the levels they want."

■ A tenth win of the season took The New Saints Ladies to the top of the FA Women's Premier League Midlands division one after overcoming Long Eaton Ladies with a fine fightback.

The new leaders had to dig deep to overturn a two-goal deficit to secure a 3-2 win that lifted them two points clear of Loughborough Foxes who have two games in hand.

At one stage, the three points looked lost as TNS were totally outplayed by a stronger, quicker and well organised Nottinghamshire side who opened up a two goal lead following a nervy start by their visitors.

The tide began to turn with a TNS lifeline, which came two minutes before the interval when Emily Ridge released the ever-willing Laura Morris who broke through before finishing in style.

With their tails up, and following two half time substitutions which including the introduction of new signing Sarah Jackson, TNS were level inside

two minutes of the restart as Morris jinked her way forward, before picking out captain Charlotte Canlett, who crashed a volley in from 12 yards.

With the momentum now firmly with TNS, Ridge found herself brought down by a clumsy foul from the goalkeeper before Canlett coolly converted the spot kick to seal a crucial victory.

That's four league wins in a row for the Ladies which saw them leapfrog Loughborough Foxes at the summit, who were without a game.

"It's not often you see teams able to turn around a two-goal deficit, so naturally we are very pleased. I thought Long Eaton played well and made life difficult for us today," said manager Andy Williams.

Next Sunday, the Saints visit Sporting Khalsa in round two of the SSE Women's FA Cup with both teams have already beaten each other this season.

■ Newtown boss Chris Hughes pulled no punches after his side crashed 3-0 at basement rivals Aberystwyth Town to remain deep in trouble.

Defeat lifted Aber out of the bottom two, while Newtown remain out of the relegation zone purely on goal difference.

"The performance wasn't good enough tonight, we were second best," said Hughes after a night to forget on the coast.

"All we can do is apologise to the supporters who've come down here in there numbers. We've let them down tonight, it was a poor display."



## Jones nets five as Four Crosses go goal crazy

GARETH Jones struck five times as Four Crosses swept aside Talgarth Town 9-0 in the second round of the Central Wales Challenge Cup.

Jack Jones also weighed in with a hat-trick, and Dylan Ellis got the other as the Montgomeryshire League division one title chasers stunned their higher rated rivals.

Matty Tonks was also among the goals with four as Hay St Mary's trounced Llanilar 6-0, with Jack Biggs and Chris Preece also finding the net.

Dyffryn Banw progressed 2-0 at Abermule, while Llanymynech's home tie with Newcastle Emlyn was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, as was Llangedwyn's trip to Bishop's Castle.

High flying Builth Wells were also scuppered by the weather as their home tie with Dolgellau was another casualty

Aberystwyth University made an early exit in the Central Wales Cup as they went out 3-2 in the second round at home to Borth United.

### Caught cold

After the tie had been given the go-ahead following recent rain, the students were caught cold as Spar League division one side Borth carved an early two goal lead.

But they hit back to level before the break courtesy of goals from Liam Powell and Dylan Price, and had enough chances in the second period to have gone on to win.

It was Borth, however, who prevailed with the only goal of the second period, to leave the university to ponder what might have been.

Meanwhile, Welshpool Reserves eased their basement concerns in the Montgomeryshire League division two with a 3-2 victory at Trefonen Reserves.

## It's a night to forget as Pool go out

IT was another tough night for Welshpool who crashed out of the North Wales Intermediate Cup with a 53-0 first round exit under the lights at Llanidloes.

Pool were up against it even before the first whistle as they made the trip with just 15 players, and their lack of front row forwards led to uncontested scrums.

The home side were 12-0 to the good at the interval, while Pool's chances faded further once they had a player red carded.

Llanidloes surged ahead in the second period as they made their numerical advantage count, with centre Adam Price scoring five of his team's nine tries while also kicking four conversions.

Wing men James Davies and Craig Williams also went over, along with fly half Richard Short and skipper and No8 Paul Jehu, as Lani recorded their third win against Welshpool this season.

## Hockey ladies look to climb

OSWESTRY Ladies' tough campaign continues in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two after another barren weekend.

Their 3-0 loss at home to Knutsford Ladies on Saturday - their seventh defeat of the campaign - kept them third from bottom. They are due to host third placed Golborne Ladies on Saturday as they look to climb away from the basement regions.

Welshpool Ladies, battling to escape the foot of the North Wales Women's League division one, picked up a point from a 0-0 draw away to basement rivals Ruthin.

# Night of close calls in table tennis league

TITLE challengers Myddle got the upper hand over Criftons B 6-4 in their second bout of the season in the Oswestry and District Table Tennis League - but on this occasion the home side were a touch away from a victory.

Jack Hughes was on terrific form with three impressive victories for Myddle, despite a courageous performance by Ian Turner who narrowly dropped the fifth set 8-11.

Turner did, however, find momentum and secured two points for Criftons alongside Stephen Roberts with relative ease. They both teamed up in the doubles, taking part and winning the match of the night 15-13 in the final set.

An extremely close night saw Morda A edged out 6-4 by Criftons A, with six of the games going to five sets.

Tim Mytton led the way with three wins, despite the resistance of the Morda side, particularly held by Andy Hardy taking Mytton to five sets.

Hardy did, however, manage to overcome the rest of the away side. However, with Steve Parker and Dylan Evans picking up three points between them, the Criftons side eked out the victory despite being stretched.

In division two, Morda B gained a strong 7-3 victory over last year's runners-up Ex-Servicemen with Chris Walker and Marcin Stepowski on top form,

both unbeaten on the night.

Julian Walford and Bob Andrews both courageously battled their way to a point each, with an impressive three set victory over Ian Ordilliano and Walker, earning half the points available throughout the night.

Caereinion B suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of Criftons C.

Only David Bayliss managed a win in a close five setter against Russell Evans to gain a point for Caereinion and avoid a whitewash. Father and son Andrew Jones and Alex Jones put in an unbeaten display for Criftons for a win that now sees them move to third position in the second division.

# Eagles flying after home improvement

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

**A FIVE-try haul from Luca Owen-Youens helped Oswestry end their long wait for a first home victory of the season by hammering Port Sunlight 61-0 in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.**

While enjoying plenty of success on their travels, the Os men have had less to cheer at home after several narrow misses - but put the record straight as they swept aside their visitors from the Wirral.

They never looked back after scoring the first of their 11 tries in the sixth minute as their rivals from Birkenhead were put to the sword on a bright, breezy and cold afternoon at Granville Park.

Owen-Youens was the day's star performer, justifiably taking the man-of-the-match honour with five tries and two conversions for a personal haul of 28 points.

Making light of a heavy pitch, the Eagles showed strong early defence before capitalising on their first real opportunity.

From a line-out close to the Port Sunlight line, the ball was won by the hosts whose Gareth Ellis drove on before passing to Guy Roberts who then fed Owen-Youens who powered over for his first touchdown which went unconverted.

Port Sunlight looked to hit back, but were met by some strong tackling from the hosts who were then back on the attack again when a run by Liam Williams took his side within a few feet of the try line before being pushed into touch, but the Oswestry pressure finally resulted in Andrew Merrett running in his first try of the season on 14 minutes to double the lead, with the conversion missed.

A charging run by Andrew Smith again had the Eagles on the front foot, with the visitors struggling to get out of their own half.

The home side bagged a third score when Scott Smith stormed over from the rear of a scrum to increase the advantage.

### Pushed forward

More strong runs from Andrew Smith, Gareth Ellis and Connor Blair saw Owen-Youens run in a wonderful try from over 35 yards out to take their side 20 points up.

With the bit between their teeth, the home side again pushed forward with Merrett producing a quick pass to Owen-Youens who raced over to complete his hat-trick of unconverted scores for a 25-0 half time lead.

Any hopes of a Port Sunlight revival after the break were quickly dashed as Owen-Youens showed his pace to speed over from half way for another try.

The pressure took its toll on the Port Sunlight men and, after quick passing, the ball was spun to Owen-Youens who ran in his fifth try before kicking the first conversion of the afternoon to put his side 37 points up.

Another score soon followed with Michael Keaveny together with Nick Clay running hard for the line before passing to James Booth who crossed from over 30 yards out, with Owen-Youens converting for a 44-0 lead.

Italian Nikola Nickolov then joined the try feast by running in his first touchdown since joining the club at the start of the season before Tudor Jones shrugged off a couple of defenders to power over from a five metre scrum.

The onslaught continued with Scott Smith held just short by desperate defending by the visitors, but the ball went to Hugh Adams who charged over for his team's 11th try, Connor Blair converting to seal an emphatic win.

## Medal delight for Team Elite



**Just the ticket - The victorious Stephen Andrews (centre) with Team Elite coaches Mick Broster (left) and Rich Cosgrove after the Golden Ticket event**

MATT White and Daryl Small were both in medal winning form when they flew the flag for Team Elite in Oswestry at the All Stars Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu open held in Stoke.

Between them, the two fighters brought home an astounding two golds and one silver, with their victories adding to Team Elite's already impressive seven title belts.

White won the under 67kg division against some very experienced opponents after taking the final bout with a rear naked choke.

Small was fighting in the under 64kg division where he won three matches by submission, and the "no-gi" division by rear naked choke.

Brazilian jiu-jitsu is a martial art and combat sport system that focuses on grappling and especially ground fighting. It even-

tually came to be its own combat sport through the experiments, practices and adaptation of judo.

BJJ promotes the concept that a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend themselves or another against a bigger, stronger, heavier assailant by using proper technique, leverage, and most notably, taking the fight to the ground, and then applying joint locks and chokeholds to defeat the opponent.

BJJ training can be used for sport grappling tournaments and in self-defence situations.

Stephen Andrews also enjoyed success when representing Team Elite at the Golden Ticket Fight Promotions event in Wolverhampton.

Taking on a tough three round fight against an experienced fighter in Alex Boyd, Andrews secured a convincing win with a rear naked choke at 1:19 of the

third round.

After the win, he commented: "This submission has been on my bucket list ever since I began MMA/BJJ.

"But for some reason the finish had eluded me and had nearly vanished from my game during training.

"So to be able to finally get the finish was so much sweeter. Sometimes you just have to let go and allow years of repetition take over."

Andrews now has a chance to fight for the fly weight title on February 10 next year.

All fighters would like to thank all of their coaches who helped them prepare for the competition.

To find out more about Team Elite go online at <http://elite-martial-arts.net> or contact Rich Cosgrove on 07970-856002.

## Oswestry's undefeated tennis thirds end on high

AS the Autumn Shropshire League mixed tennis season draws to a close, the teams of Oswestry are celebrating another successful campaign.

The club's third team were crowned Group 5N champions in their final fixture with a 4-0 defeat of their Shrewsbury counterparts to secure their place in Group 4N next year - going throughout the season without losing a match.

In their last outing, the first pair of Dave Clough and partner Linda Clark achieved victory in both their rubbers over the two opposing pairs in straight sets - 6-3, 6-3, against the first pair, and 6-0, 6-2 against the second pair.

The second pair of Saffron Rainey and Rebecca Hollywell won the first set, 7-6, against the Shrewsbury firsts, the second 6-2 before they demolished the opposition second pair 6-0, 6-0.

The second team to achieve success was the Oswestry's fifth side who claimed the automatic second promotion spot in Group 7N. Having had their penultimate fixture cancelled as Market Drayton VI failed to field a team, they could only be awarded two points.

This was a major disappointment to the four members of the team who, having had a series of 4-0 victories this season, were hoping to having another, but they channelled all their enthusiasm into their final fixture away to team Mosaic VII.

In the first round rubbers, the first pair of Richard Hann and Emily Lowe took the first set 6-4, they narrowly lost out on a second set tie break 6-7, but managed to take the deciding third set tie-break 1-0.

Their second rubber was a much easier affair, and was soon over for the loss of only two games 6-1, 6-1.

The second pair of Nick Elliott and Rosemary Bennett won their first rubber in quick time 6-0, 6-4, and had a long wait for Hann and Lowe to complete their first rubber before their second started.

### Challenging

This was a challenging encounter that required their best tennis and they secured the first set on a tie break 7-6 before their opponents' resolve fell away in the second set as they went down 6-2.

This team managed to field the same four players for the complete season, with captain Nick Elliott praising their commitment and dedication.

Oswestry's second team travelled to Town Walls Tennis Club knowing that the result could lead to three possible outcomes - promotion, preserving their status in Group 3 or to be one of four teams relegated.

With an injury preventing El-speth Cumpston from playing, captain Gary Edwards called upon Rebecca Hollywell from the third team to partner him.

They made a blistering start in their first rubber, taking the first set 6-3, but then lost their way in the second set to lose 3-6.

With the momentum firmly with Town Walls, the Oswestry pairing had to dig deep to overcome a big deficit in the tie-break decider to come back and win 1-0 (11-9) to take the rubber.

Oswestry's other pairing of Brett Hollywell and Clare Hann played out an epic battle in their first rubber.

They took the first set on a tie break 7-6, lost the second set on a tie break 6-7, and then missing out in the deciding tie break 0-1.

In the reverse rubber, Edwards and Hollywell made a slow start, quickly going down 1-5, but then raised their aggression levels to turn the rubber on its head by winning six straight games to take the set 7-5.

With the bit between their teeth, they clinched the second 6-3 to take the rubber before Brett Hollywell and Hann lost their reverse rubber in straight sets 3-6, 3-6



# Sport

Athletics  
Olympians given  
county call – P34

Football  
Round-ups on the  
local sides – P34



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Luca shines  
in high five  
Eagles' win



Luca Owen-Youens scored five tries

THE SUN shone on Oswestry's rugby players who celebrated their first win of the season on home soil in fine style.

While enjoying plenty of success on their travels, the Eagles have had less to cheer at Granville Park after several narrow misses.

However, they put the record straight as they embarked on an 11-try spree against Wirral side Port Sunlight to run out emphatic 61-0 winners to lift themselves up to seventh in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

Buoyed by the welcome success, the Eagles will be hoping for more of the same when they fly to the Isle of Man on Saturday to take on rock bottom Vagabonds.

Full-back Luca Owen-Youens was the day's star performer, justifiably taking the man-of-the-match honour with five tries and two conversions for a personal haul of 28 points.

**WELSHPOOL**, meanwhile, bowed out of the North Wales Intermediate Cup with a 53-0 exit at Llanidloes whose centre Adam Price also scored five touchdowns.

## Guilsfield target more Cup success

GUILDSFIELD look to prove a surprise package when they make Saturday's short trip to Newtown for an intriguing Welsh Cup third round encounter (1.30).

The villagers may be the underdogs on Latham Park's 3G surface, but they can go into the tie with realistic hope of overcoming a side that has been struggling in the Welsh Premier this term.

"It's a great tie for us, and gives our lads a chance to show what they're about," said Guils manager Nathan Leonard whose side are going well in the Cymru Alliance this season.

"Although we play most of our games on grass, a 3G pitch is not alien as we train every week at TNS. We had a great run in the cup last season, and it would be nice to do it again," between the posts.

# LLAN LOOKING FOR CUP SHOCK

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**IN ONE of the biggest days in the club's history, Llanrhaeadr will be aiming to pull off a Welsh Cup shock in Saturday's third round tie at home to Cefn Druids (1.30).**

Having dispatched two Cymru Alliance outfits Queens Park and Caersws in previous rounds, the Spar Mid Wales League men now set their sights on even tougher assignment against their in-form Welsh Premier visitors.

But they will fancy their chances on home soil – while the Druids will not be savouring their trip to Mid Wales after crashing 4-1 at Llanfair United in the fourth round last season.

The Ancients are more accustomed to playing on 3G surfaces this season, so the heavy conditions at the Recreation Field are certain to prove a leveller.

Should they pull off a surprise, Llanrhaeadr will reach the last 16 of the competition for only the second time in the club's history, the last occasion being three seasons ago before losing to Rhyl in the fourth round in February 2015.

"It's a big day for the club," said Llan chairman Mel Roberts. "Ever since the draw was made, there has been a lot of interest and excitement in the village, and a big crowd is expected."

"We are clearly the underdogs, but they will not fancy playing on our pitch, so who knows what can happen. Everyone's looking forward to the game, and if we play like we can, then we've got a chance."

### Former boss

Llanrhaeadr hope to have a full squad available, including player manager Marc Griffiths who, one time with the Druids, will renew acquaintance with his former boss Huw Griffiths.

Lying fifth in the Welsh Premier, the improving Ancients are certain to prove a tough hurdle, and have former Llanfair United front runner James Davies in their ranks.

**THE NEW SAINTS**, last season's beaten finalists, will be confident of progressing when they tackle Huws Hray Cymru Alliance side Penrhynoch in the third round at Park Hall on Friday night (7.45).

Six times winners of the competition, the Saints lifted the trophy for three consecutive years before losing to Bala Town in last season's final.

"At this stage of the draw, you could be going anywhere, so we're fortunate to be at home," said manager Scott Ruscoe. "We know a bit about about them. They'll be well set up, they have some ex-Aberystwyth players there, and we certainly won't be treating them lightly."

Penrhynoch, managed by former Aberystwyth Town stalwart Gari Lewis, are currently lying fourth bottom in the Cymru Alliance.

## Saints chill out with difference



Cryozone chief Steve Morgan with New Saints duo Callum Roberts and Ryan Leak

THE NEW SAINTS aim to be in red-hot form against Carmarthen Town at the weekend after a touch of cold comfort.

Saints are leaving no stone unturned in their bid for another Welsh Premier title and that included 'treating' their players to a trip to specialist and innovative new centre in Shrewsbury.

TNS headed to the Cryozone at Harlescott where they endured temperatures of minus 85c in a state-of-the-art Cryo Air Chamber that aid recovery from fatigue, aches, pains and bruises.

Manager Scott Ruscoe said: "We are currently flying high again this season and feel that the lads need to be well looked after in such a competitive league."

"The facilities here are simply amazing and

I understand that Leicester City and England player Jamie Vardy has the very same chamber actually in his home.

"We took 20 players and although it is rather cold at first – very cold as I have tried it myself – the feedback from the lads has been positive, with many declaring immediate results."

Two players who tried out the Cryozone chamber were Welsh Under-19 international Ryan Leak, who is on loan from Wolves, and Callum Roberts, 19, who is enjoying a temporary stay from Shrewsbury.

Roberts said: "I actually felt better, even after just over three minutes in the chamber."

"But it was unbelievably cold and takes your breath away in the first few seconds. Hopefully in the future it will become a regular way of aiding recovery after matches."

TNS move  
five clear at  
top of table

SCOTT Ruscoe praised his side's response after The New Saints opened up a five point lead at the top of the JD Welsh Premier with a 3-1 victory at Cefn Druids on Tuesday.

After falling behind to Arek Piskorski's tap-in six minutes before half time, the defending champions roared back with top scorer Greg Draper levelling matters at the break.

Winger Jamie Mullan then gave the visitors the lead soon after the interval before Draper got his second – and 11th of the season – on 61 minutes.

Having been below par in their 5-2 success against lowly Carmarthen Town a few days before, manager Ruscoe felt the Saints were back to their old selves.

"After not playing well on the Saturday, I was looking for a reaction which I got," he said. "Although we went 1-0 down, I always felt we were going to come back. We created a lot of chances, and forced their keeper to make saves, and overall I was pleased with the performance."

Chasing a top six place this season, the Druids struck the first blow when Jamie Davies' angled strike was well saved by keeper Paul Harrison, but Piskorski dispatched the loose ball.

The home celebrations, however, were short lived as the Saints were back on terms three minutes before half time as Draper found the net when converting Chris Marriott's cross from the left.

The visitors were then in front seven minutes into the second period courtesy of the lively Mullan, and Draper was again at his predatory best to make it three on the hour following a scramble in the box.

Holdings TNS will take on Cardiff Met University in the final of the Nathaniel MG Cup at Aberystwyth Town's Park Avenue ground on Saturday, January 20, 2018 with a 5.15pm kick off.

The Saints will be looking to lift the trophy for the fourth consecutive season.

## Saints pondering change of league

ST MARTINS are pondering a switch to the Hallmark North West Counties League next season – the same league as local rivals FC Oswestry Town.

Currently playing in the West Midlands League division one, the Saints are likely to require a top five finish to enable them to step up a level.

At present, the North West Counties League has a premier division and a division one – but plans are afoot for an additional first division next term to be run on a north and south basis to reduce the amount of travelling.

Saints boss Dan Stevens, a former manager in the North West Counties League with FC Oswestry Town, says a move to a Step 6 league is the best way for the club if they are to attract better players in the area and keep progressing.

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